

M E M O R A N D U M

TO : Grand Junction Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Program
(UMTRAP) Task Force

FROM: R. W. Holmes, Chairman *RWH*

DATE: February 5, 1987

SUBJ: UMTRAP Climax Mill Site
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Position Statement *(1/22/87)*

The UMTRAP Climax Mill Site EIS is entering its final stages. The Final EIS is expected to be released within a week and a public hearing will be scheduled by the DOE within the next two months.

However, as a result of over ten months of meetings and investigations by the GJ Task Force & City/County Staff, certain conclusions have been reached.

The following represents the position that was discussed and agreed to at the January 22, 1987 Task Force meeting:

- 1) The community will benefit greatly by the cleanup of the Climax Mill Site and related mill tailings pile. A potential health hazard will be removed from the center of Grand Junction, jobs will be created and a major opportunity will present itself for redevelopment of the riverfront.
It is important that this project move ahead over the next four years and that the State and Federal governments fund their share of the project.
- 2) Disposal Sites
The staff and Task Force have reviewed the Cheney & 2 Road disposal sites.
 - a) While the 2 Road by rail alternative seems to have the least negative community impact, least transportation conflicts, least potential accidents and least negative impact on infrastructure, it does not seem at this time to merit additional study because of the Department of Energy's cost estimates, DOE's continued insistence on the Cheney Reservoir Site, and because the D&RGW Railroad cannot go further in making a proposal.
 - b) The Task Force still feels that 2 Road by rail is preferable, but the costs as calculated by DOE cannot be brought down to a comparable level to truck; therefore, we are proceeding under the assumption that Cheney by truck will be the chosen alternative.

3. Mitigation

a) Specific mitigation measures will not be formalized until the City Council and County Commissioners grant conditional use permits for this project. Items of consideration at this point in time which DOE should be aware of for possible mitigation are as follows:

- Riverfront mitigation and haul route improvement, flood control, and reclamation planning which are coordinated with the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County's Adopted Master Plans for the area including the Draft Confluence Park Plan Phase (1) which includes:

1) A permanent flood control dike and pedestrian trail and greenbelt (see also Mesa County Land Use and Development Policies - Policy #26 Master Plan of Parks - "Greenbelt Area").

2) A separate, improved haul route, including Struthers Avenue, a new street along the 6th Street alignment, instead of the DOE proposed haul route of Struthers to 9th Street, to 4th Avenue to 5th Street. The DOE preferred haul route involved numerous conflicts including the County Road Department Office and Shop on 9th Street, the right angle turn onto 4th Avenue from 9th Street, the two rail grade crossings on 4th Avenue, the McKesson Chemical Company (4th), and the County Human Resource Food Distribution Center (4th). By constructing a new 6th Street haul route the DOE would be avoiding most of these traffic and land use conflicts. The limited right-of-way acquisition would enable the beginning of a long term future road plan and improvement program that would be of lasting value to the local economy (see attached plan).

3) A reclamation plan of the mill site and tailings pile which includes clean fill, a permanent flood control dike, river-edge tree planting, a pedestrian trail, reseeding, and landscaping.

4) Transportation Improvements

Since the transport of the millsite tailings continues to be one of the most important local issues related to UMTRAP, we urged the DOE to send us a complete copy of this draft plan as soon as possible, and before or when the Final EIS is released to the public. We would expect the transportation plan to address the following items:

- Maps showing complete haul routes to and from the disposal site.

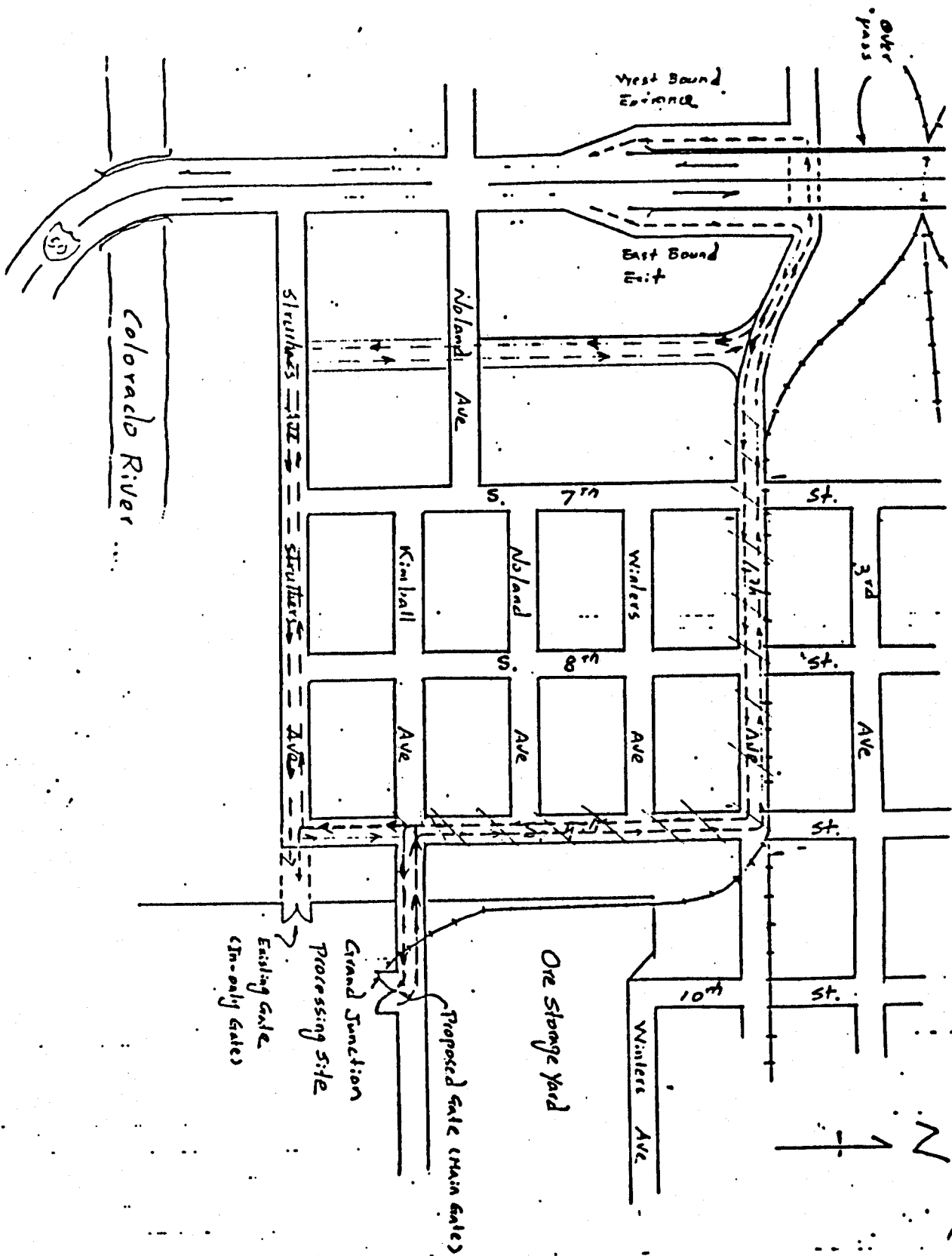
- Proposed schedule of hauling, including months, hours of operation, days of the week, and maximum trips per day.

- Specific plans for coordinating DOE hauling schedules with the 5th Street Bridge reconstruction project.
- Detailed plans of alternate routes in the event that 5th Street is impassable because of the bridge reconstruction project.
- Mitigation of such impacts as congestion, delays, road damage, traffic accidents, noise and dust generation.
- Public participation and information program for property owners along the proposed haul routes and alternate haul routes, and for the community at large about using the haul routes.

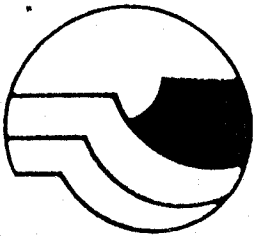
5) Additional Concerns

- a) Dust Control on the site, loading area and haul routes.
- b) Land acquisition of all the land within the mill tailings area by DOE and disposal of all parcels to the City of Grand Junction.
- c) Operating policies and quality control for all trucks used in the hauling.
- d) Long term maintenance and monitoring of the repository at Cheney Reservoir to avoid (a) subdividing or otherwise developing the site or its environs, (b) ground water pollution, (c) other contamination which might occur.
- e) Development of a disposal site and/or transfer station for the disposal of vicinity property mill tailings as they are generated during the life of the project.
- f) Radon barrier and pile cap of the Cheney repository.

PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION ROUTE AT PROCESSING SITE



#18-87



BOARD OF
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March 6, 1987

Dear Interested Citizen:

Attached please find a copy of the February 5, 1987 Position Statement issued by the Grand Junction Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Program Task Force (GJ UMTRAP). Also included is a suggested model for a Resolution related to the Position Statement.

Please study the Position Statement and if you have questions contact Steven Ausmus (244-1607) or myself (244-1605).

If, after this study, you feel it appropriate for your organization to support this document, I would ask that you take the following actions:

- 1) Pass and adopt a Resolution, similar to that attached, and return it to my office no later than March 20, 1987.
- 2) Attend the Department of Energy's Public Hearing scheduled for March 24, 1987 (7:00 P.M., City/County Auditorium), and verbally convey your support for the GJ UMTRAP Task Force's February 5, 1987 Position Statement.
- 3) Contact our Legislators and remind them that it is important that this project move ahead over the next four years and that the State and Federal governments fund their share of the project.

Mail your Resolutions to:

R. W. Holmes, Chairman
GJ UMTRAP Task Force
c/o Steven Ausmus
P.O. Box 20,000-5001
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5001

Let me thank you in advance for your consideration and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

R. W. Holmes, Chairman
GJ UMTRAP Task Force