

ATTACHMENT 1 TO EOI

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management

ACTION: Expression of interest (EOI)

SUMMARY: The federal government established the forerunner of the Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) in 1948 to protect ore reserves on withdrawn public lands for national defense purposes. The program has yielded over 49 million pounds of uranium and vanadium and generated approximately 70 million dollars in royalties to the federal government.

There is an opportunity for the ULP to boost the U.S. economy and support the mining of critical minerals for national security and energy dominance. The ULP includes 31 total lease tracts covering more than 26,000 acres of withdrawn land in southwestern Colorado.

There are two inactive lease tracts that are not currently leased. This EOI is to assess the potential for leasing this remaining acreage for viable mining opportunities in accordance with current laws.

This action supports the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (Title 42 *United States Code* Section 2011 et seq. [42 USC 2011 et seq.]); Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 760.1 (10 CFR 760.1), “Uranium Leases on Lands Controlled by DOE”; Executive Order 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*; Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*; and Executive Order 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*.

DATES: Responses to the EOI are requested by September 30, 2026, 5:00 pm (MT).

ADDRESSES: Responses should be submitted electronically to the attention of DOE-LM Senior Realty Officer Andrea Dolch at Andrea.Dolch@hq.doe.gov and ULInfo@lm.doe.gov and include “ULP EOI Response” in the subject line of the email. Any information that may be business proprietary and exempt by law from public disclosure should be submitted as described in Section VI of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions may be addressed to:

Andrea Dolch

Senior Realty Officer

Andrea.Dolch@hq.doe.gov and ULInfo@lm.doe.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The government's authority to administer the ULP is defined by the Atomic Energy Act and other legislative actions which authorized the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), predecessor agency to DOE, to withdraw lands from the public domain under Public Land Orders (PLOs), and then lease them to private industry for mineral resource development, specifically for uranium and vanadium ores (see Section 67 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended). The program is administered pursuant to the provisions of DOE's regulations governing the issuance of leases for mining deposits of uranium in lands held by DOE (10 CFR 760.1).

Currently, the government administers 31 lease tracts. Of these lease tracts, 29 are actively held under lease. There are two lease tracts that are available for lease, which were placed in inactive status in 2009. The government anticipates authorizing land use rights and privileges through a lease pursuant to the above authorities for each of these lease tracts. The information gathered through this EOI may be considered in developing a public solicitation of private-sector proposals for the ULP. This EOI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation.

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I. Background

DOE's authority to administer the ULP is defined by the Atomic Energy Act and other legislative actions which authorized AEC, predecessor agency to DOE, to withdraw lands from the public domain under PLOs, and then lease them to private industry for mineral resource development, specifically for uranium and vanadium ores (see Section 67 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended). The program is administered pursuant to the provisions of DOE's regulations governing the issuance of leases for mining deposits of uranium in lands held by DOE (10 CFR 760.1).

On July 31, 2008, four environmental organizations filed suit against DOE and the ULP in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado (Court), alleging that DOE violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by issuing the 2007 PEA and FONSI and thus "not taking a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of future ULP activities." A second complaint was added in April 2009 alleging that DOE also violated the Endangered Species Act by "not adequately addressing the potential environmental impacts of future ULP activities to the four endangered Colorado River fish."

On October 18, 2011, the Court ruled in the plaintiff's favor and issued an injunction against DOE that prohibited all lease-related activities (exploration, development, mining, and reclamation) until DOE performed an environmental analysis that adequately addressed all potential environmental impacts of future ULP activities, including site-specific activities, which the Court cited as being lacking in the 2007 PEA and FONSI. In December 2011, DOE reminded the Court that several lessees had existing mining operations on their lease tracts that represented a significant financial investment that needed to be properly maintained in an environmentally sound condition, and that that operation also had ongoing federal and state permits that needed to be appropriately maintained. On February 27, 2012, the Court amended its ruling to allow DOE and its lessees to perform only those activities that were absolutely necessary to protect the existing lease tract operations and maintain them in an environmentally sound condition.

In March 2014, DOE completed its *Final Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE 2014a) (PEIS), and it issued a Record of Decision (Volume 79 *Federal Register* page 26956 [79 FR 26956]) (ROD) in May 2014 supporting the implementation of its preferred alternative, continuation of the ULP for an additional 10-year period. Subsequent to the ROD, DOE submitted the Administrative Record for the PEIS and ROD to the Court for consideration.

In April 2017, DOE filed a motion with the Court to dissolve the injunction. In February 2018, the Court ruled that DOE had satisfied its obligation under NEPA; however, it directed DOE to consult further with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerning water depletion and its effects on the four endangered Colorado River fish. In May 2018, DOE submitted a supplemental Biological Assessment to USFWS that provided the water depletion data, as directed by the Court. USFWS responded in June 2018, saying that the new information did not alter its original Biological Opinion—that mining activities related to the continuation of the ULP would not adversely affect the four fish or their habitat. In July 2018, DOE filed a second motion with the Court to dissolve the injunction and enter final judgement in the case.

On March 18, 2019, the Court ruled in DOE's favor, dissolved the long-standing injunction against DOE and the ULP, and closed the case. Following the 60-day appeal period wherein the plaintiffs took no actions, the DOE Office of General Counsel advised DOE that it was free to develop a path forward for the ULP, including the implementation of its preferred alternative as defined in the Final PEIS and ROD, to continue the program for an additional 10-year period and execute new leases, if desired.

Currently, DOE administers 31 lease tracts. Of these lease tracts, 29 are actively held under lease. The 31 lease tracts under the ULP cover more than 26,000 acres. However, only just over 24,000 acres are currently active within the ULP under existing leases. Production of minerals has not occurred on the lease tracts since the 1995–2008 leasing period due to market conditions, as well as a court-ordered injunction which enjoined activities under the ULP from 2011 until 2019, when the injunction was dissolved. To increase the potential for uranium and vanadium production from the lease tracts, DOE is considering leasing the remaining two lease tracts under the authorities referenced above.

II. Purpose

The primary purpose of this EOI is to solicit information from entities with experience in the development, operation, and management of uranium and vanadium leasing and mining. DOE is

also seeking information from the public and potentially affected entities on areas that should be considered or further evaluated for potential solicitations. DOE may issue leases to (1) citizens of the United States, (2) associations of such citizens, or (3) corporations organized under the laws of the United States or territories thereof. Persons under 21 years of age or employees of DOE are not eligible.

DOE is seeking input on a range of topics, including:

- Industry interest in any of the locations identified in the appendixes for consideration.
- Financial and contractual considerations related to leasing DOE-managed lease tracts for uranium and vanadium exploration or mining (or both).
- Economic, realty, and environmental information.
- Potential challenges associated with the ULP and any additional information required for potential solicitations.

DOE is interested in hearing community perspectives on potential collaboration with industry partners towards advancement of the ULP. DOE has not made any final agency decisions at this time and will communicate with stakeholders on potential proposed land uses, as appropriate.

III. Sites Under Consideration

DOE has identified locations at two lease tracts available for lease. Those lease tracts are:

1. Lease Tract C-JD-8A.
2. Lease Tract C-SR-14.

Publicly available information about each site, including location, available acreage, and other characteristics, is provided in the appendixes to this EOI. This EOI is solely a request for voluntary information to inform future potential actions.

IV. DOE Mining Lease Terms and Considerations

DOE's statutory authority for leases of DOE real property is outlined in Section 161g of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 USC 2201[g]). DOE may enter into a lease in accordance with 10 CFR 760.1, "Uranium Leases on Lands Controlled by DOE." Lease terms will be the same or similar to current leases between DOE and lessees, including but not limited to bonding, insurance, indemnity, and liabilities.

V. Categories and Questions

To assist DOE in evaluating the potential for leasing these two tracts, interested parties are requested to provide the following information, as available, in response to this EOI. Respondents can choose to answer as many or as few questions as they feel is appropriate.

Category 1: Interest in Solicitation: Identify and comment on any specific sites or locations listed in Section III of this document, including interest in a potential future solicitation. See Section VI of this document, "Confidential Business Information," regarding protection and release of information and how to submit proprietary information. See the appendixes for more detailed information on site characteristics.

Category 2: Financial and Contractual Considerations: Preferred mining lease terms and suggestions to improve potential solicitations.

Category 3: Benefits and Collaboration Opportunities: Potential benefits and collaboration opportunities associated with the ULP.

Category 4: Challenges and Any Additional Information Required for Potential Solicitations: Potential concerns associated with this EOI. Additional information that would be required from DOE for a respondent to comprehensively respond to a potential future solicitation.

Category 5: Engagement Strategy with Local Communities and Other Stakeholders: DOE supports relationships with other federal agencies, state and local government authorities, and the surrounding communities. DOE seeks potential opportunities to improve these relationships.

Response Guidelines

DOE invites all interested parties to submit responses to this EOI by September 30, 2026, 5:00 pm MT. Responses must be provided as Microsoft Word (.docx) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) attachments to an email the attention of DOE-LM Senior Realty Officer Andrea Dolch at Andrea.Dolch@hq.doe.gov and to ULInfo@lm.doe.gov with the subject line “ULP EOI Response.”

It is recommended that attachments with file sizes exceeding 25 megabytes be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Any questions regarding the EOI may be included in the response or sent directly to Andrea Dolch, Senior Realty Officer, andrea.dolch@hq.doe.gov and ULInfo@lm.doe.gov. DOE may address questions after the response due date with a public frequently asked questions document.

In your response, please use the associated category. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

DOE will not respond to individual submissions or publicly publish a compendium of responses. A response to this EOI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their responses to this EOI:

- Company/institution name
- Company/institution contact
- Contact’s address, phone number, and email address

VI. Confidential Business Information

DOE will not release information that identifies any particular interest in a location with any particular party, so as not to compromise the competitive position of any participants. Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, “Handling Information of a Private Business, Foreign Government, or an International Organization,” any person submitting information that they believe to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email two well-marked copies: one

copy of the document marked “confidential” including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked “nonconfidential” with the information believed to be confidential deleted. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The U.S. government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose. If your response contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information, you must include a cover sheet marked as follows identifying the specific pages containing confidential, proprietary, or privileged information:

“Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data Pages: Pages [list applicable pages] of this response may contain confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for the purposes described in this EOI. The government may use or disclose any information that is not appropriately marked or otherwise restricted, regardless of source.”

In addition, (1) the header and footer of every page that contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as follows: “Contains, Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged Information Exempt from Public Disclosure,” and (2) every line and paragraph containing proprietary, privileged, or trade secret information must be clearly marked with [[double brackets]] or highlighting.

Please be aware that DOE may make available for public inspection all other comments, in their entirety, submitted by organizations and businesses (except those marked as proprietary information, as described above) or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

VII. Disclaimer

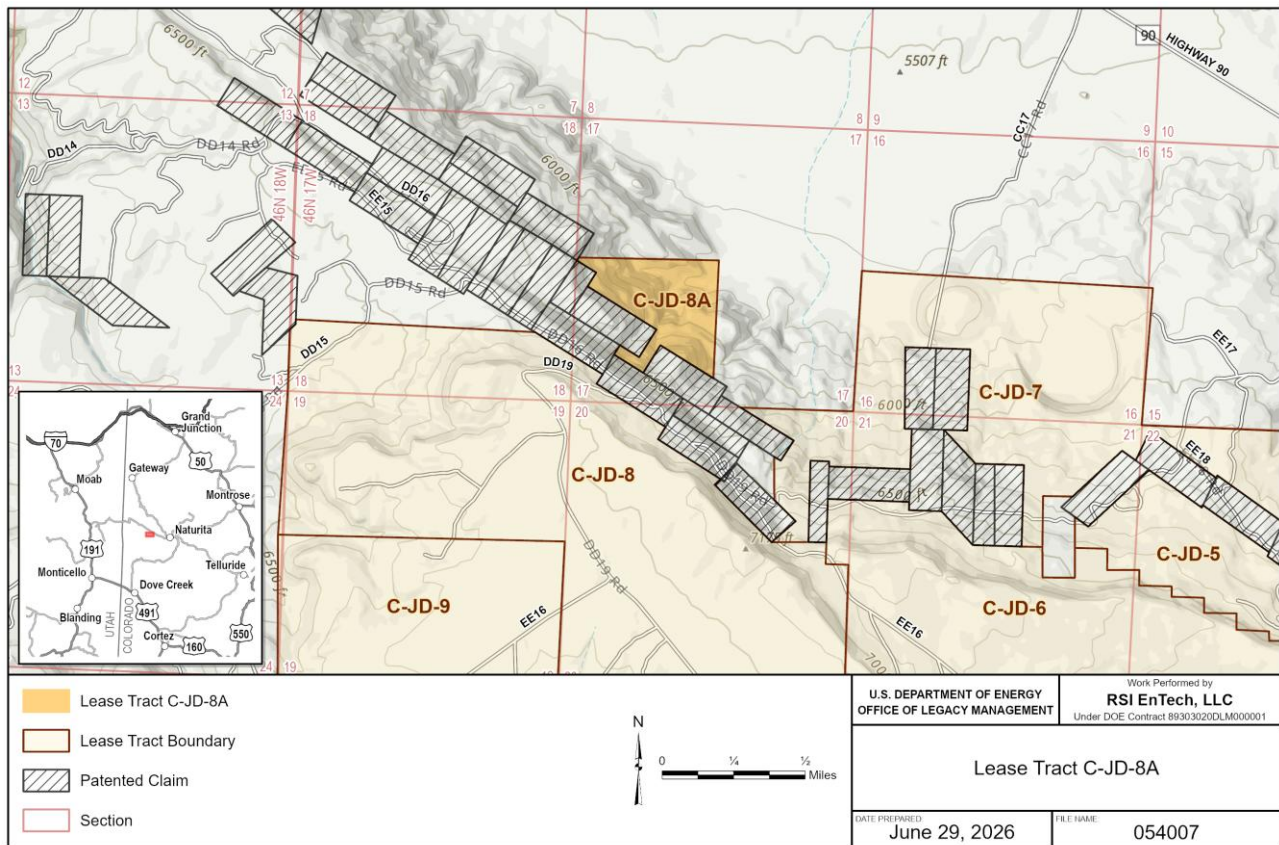
This EOI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the government to form a binding contract. DOE may choose to make available all, some, or none of the sites listed in Section III of this document in potential future solicitations. DOE is not seeking proposals through this EOI and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this EOI. Not responding to this EOI does not preclude participation in any future procurement, if conducted. No proprietary information should be included in any submittal except via the process outlined in Section VI of this document.

In accordance with the implementing regulations of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, specifically 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(4), and U.S. Office of Management and Budget guidance, this general solicitation is exempt from the PRA. Facts or opinions submitted in response to general solicitations of comments from the public, published in the *Federal Register* or other publications, regardless of the form or format thereof, are not generally considered information collections and are therefore not subject to the PRA, provided that no person is required to supply specific information pertaining to the commenter, other than that necessary for self-identification, as a condition of the agency’s full consideration.

APPENDIX A LEASE TRACT C-JD-8A

Lease Tract C-JD-8A is in Section 17, T 46 N, R 17 W, New Mexico Principal Meridian (NMPM), in Montrose County, Colorado. The original lease was executed effective July 23, 1974, and was later relinquished on April 14, 1983. In March 2008, DOE initiated a competitive bid process for the inactive lease tracts. This lease tract was put out to bid; however, there was no interest. Accordingly, this lease tract remains inactive, and consequently, no ore has been produced.

FIGURE 1. Location of Lease Tract C-JD-8A



A-L 054007

APPENDIX A-1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON DOE LEASE TRACT C-JD-8A

Lease Ownership and Background

Lease Tract C-JD-8A in Section 17, T 46 N, R 17 W, NMPM, Montrose County, Colorado, was leased effective July 23, 1974, pursuant to AEC Bid Invitation No. 60.8-R-1. In spring 1982, the lessee at the time applied for relinquishment of the lease, and it was granted on May 19, 1982, and carried out in 1983.

In 1994, DOE conducted a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to determine whether the leasing program should continue. DOE completed the PEA in July 1995 and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that supported the continuation of the program.

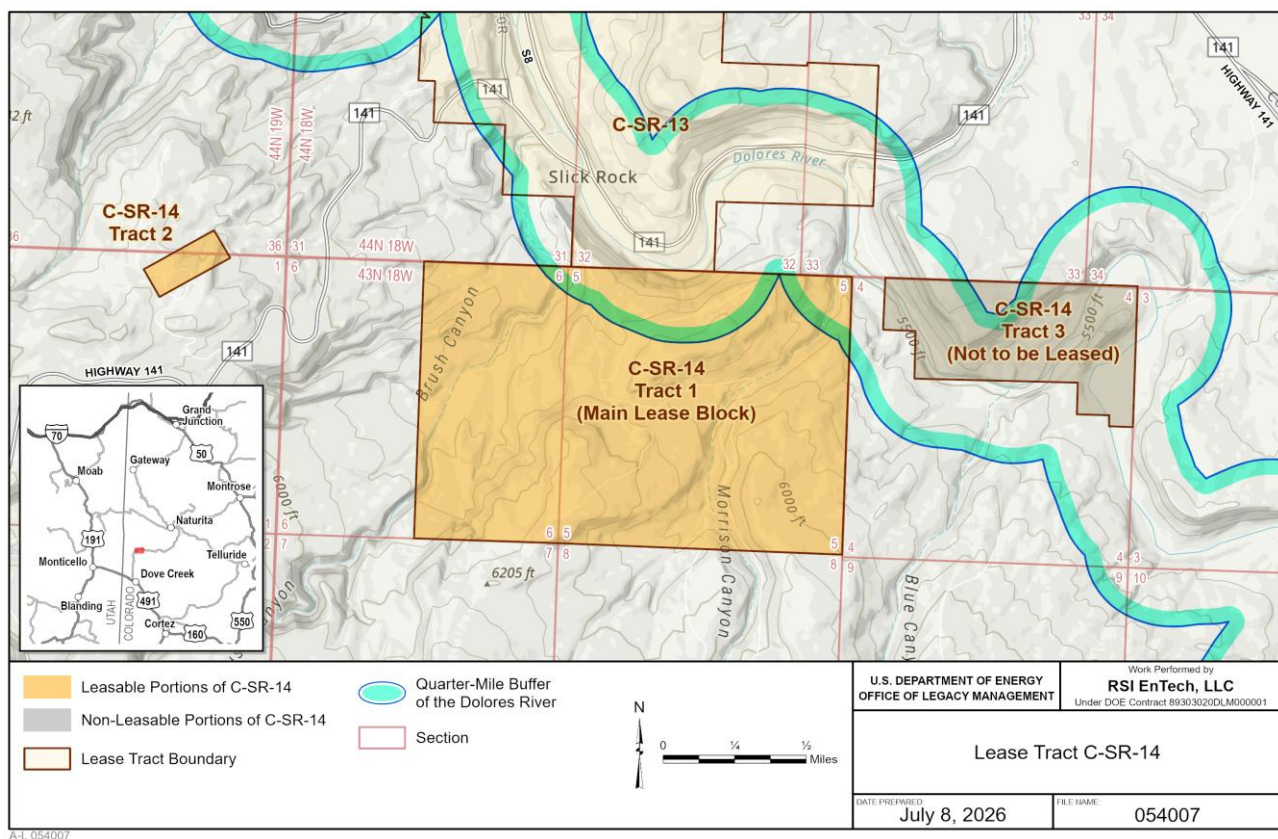
In July 2005, DOE conducted a second PEA to determine whether the leasing program should continue. DOE completed the PEA in July 2007 and issued a FONSI that supported (1) the continuation of the program for an additional 10-year period and (2) the expansion of the program to include all of the inactive lease tracts, of which Lease Tract C-JD-8A was one. In March 2008, DOE initiated a competitive bid process for the inactive lease tracts. This lease tract was put out to bid; however, it received no interest. Accordingly, DOE placed the lease tract in inactive status. No drilling or mining has ever been conducted on this lease tract.

APPENDIX B LEASE TRACT C-SR-14

Lease Tract C-SR-14 (Tract 1) is in Sections 5 and 6, T 43 N, R 18 W, NMPM, in San Miguel County, Colorado. Lease Tract C-SR-14 (Tract 2) is located in a portion of Section 36, T 44 N, R 19 W, NMPM and a portion of Section 1, T 43 N, R 19 W, NMPM, in San Miguel County, Colorado. The original lease was executed effective June 12, 1974. That portion of Lease Tract C-SR-14 (now Tract 3) in Section 4, T 43 N, R 18 W, NMPM, was not leased in 1974 and will not be leased due to its proximity to the Dolores River corridor, as no new mining can occur within ¼ mile of the Dolores River.

The preliminary exploration plan was submitted in October 1977. The plan was approved, and some 140 holes were drilled. Reclamation of drill sites has been completed. Since the inception of the second leasing period in 1974, no active mining operations or ore production has occurred on Lease Tract C-SR-14. However, historical mining was conducted on the lands currently comprising Lease Tract C-SR-14, specifically Tract 1 and Tract 2, before 1970. This historical extraction was completed under the legacy AEC Mineral Leasing Program from 1949 to 1962 and the concurrent AEC domestic uranium procurement program.

FIGURE 2. Location of Lease Tract C-SR-14



A-L 054007

APPENDIX B-1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON DOE LEASE TRACT C-SR-14

Lease Ownership and Background

Lease Tract C-SR-14 (Tract 1) in Sections 5 and 6, T 43 N, R 18 W, NMPM, San Miguel County, Colorado, and Lease Tract C-SR-14 (Tract 2) located in a portion of Section 36, T 44 N, R 19 W, NMPM and a portion of Section 1, T 43 N, R 19 W, NMPM, in San Miguel County, Colorado was leased effective June 12, 1974, pursuant to AEC Bid Invitation No. 60.8-R-S-1. That portion of Lease Tract C-SR-14 (now Tract 3) in Section 4, T 43 N, R 18 W, NMPM, was not leased in 1974 due to its proximity to the Dolores River corridor.

In 1994, DOE conducted a PEA to determine whether the leasing program should continue. DOE completed the PEA in July 1995 and issued a FONSI that supported the continuation of the program. Given the option to continue with the leasing program for an additional 10-year period, the lessee chose not to continue with the program and submitted a notice of relinquishment to DOE for the lease. DOE approved the relinquishment effective April 16, 1996.

In July 2005, DOE conducted a second PEA to determine whether the leasing program should continue. DOE completed the PEA in July 2007 and issued a FONSI that supported (1) the continuation of the program for an additional 10-year period and (2) the expansion of the program to include all of the inactive lease tracts, of which Lease Tract C-SR-14 was one. As the program continued, this lease tract was redefined to include the adjacent invalid claims, or portions thereof, within the withdrawal boundary. Additionally, in fall 2007, DOE decided to combine some of the less favorable lease tracts with the more desirable adjacent lease tracts. As such, Lease Tract C-SR-14A became Tract 2 of Lease Tract C-SR-14.

In March 2008, DOE initiated a competitive bid process for the inactive lease tracts. On June 27, 2008, DOE executed a new 10-year lease with the winning offeror. As before, that portion of Lease Tract C-SR-14 in Section 4, T 43 N, R 18 W, NMPM (now Tract 3), was not leased due to its proximity to the Dolores River corridor.

On August 8, 2010, the lessee advised DOE of its “desire to cancel Lease Tract C-SR-14 in lieu of further royalty payments.” DOE approved the request effective August 24, 2010, and immediately offered the lease tract to the next-highest bidder. In September 2010, that bidder declined DOE’s offer. On September 29, 2010, because there were no other bids received for the lease tract during the 2008 solicitation process, DOE placed the lease tract in inactive status, where it remains.

Exploration

The preliminary exploration plan submitted in October 1977 proposed to drill 84 holes. The plan was approved, and some 140 holes were drilled. Reclamation of drill sites was completed before relinquishment, as mentioned above.

Mining

Since the inception of the second leasing period in 1974, no active mining operations or ore production has occurred on Lease Tract C-SR-14. However, historical mining was conducted on the lands currently comprising Lease Tract C-SR-14, specifically Tract 1 and Tract 2, before 1970. This historical extraction was completed under the legacy AEC Mineral Leasing Program from 1949 to 1962 and the concurrent AEC domestic uranium procurement program.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES FOR REVIEW

10 CFR 760.1. U.S. Department of Energy, “Uranium Leases on Lands Controlled by DOE,” *Code of Federal Regulations*.

10 CFR 1004.11. U.S. Department of Energy, “Handling Information of a Private Business, Foreign Government, or an International Organization,” *Code of Federal Regulations*.

5 CFR 1320.3. U.S. Office of Management and Budget, “Definitions,” *Code of Federal Regulations*.

[79 FR 26956](#). U.S. Department of Energy, “Record of Decision for the Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement,” *Federal Register*, May 12, 2014.

42 USC 2011 et seq. “Atomic Energy Act of 1954,” *United States Code*.

DOE (U.S. Department of Energy), 2014a. *Final Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*, DOE/EIS-0472, Office of Legacy Management, March, <https://www.energy.gov/lm/final-uranium-leasing-program-peis>.

DOE (U.S. Department of Energy), 2014b. *Uranium Leasing Program Mitigation Action Plan for the Final Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement DOE/PEIS-0472*, LMS/ULP/Y00368, Office of Legacy Management, November, https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/11/f19/Y00368_MAP.pdf.

DOE (U.S. Department of Energy), 2026a. “ULP Viewer,” Office of Legacy Management, <https://geoportal.lm.doe.gov/geoportal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c23b44597c024b818fdc291b9c2e1dc8>, accessed March 26, 2026.

DOE (U.S. Department of Energy), 2026b. “Uranium Leasing Program,” Office of Legacy Management, <https://www.energy.gov/lm/uranium-leasing-program>, accessed July 2, 2026.