

Our Top Priority: Protecting Public Health and the Environment

At the Office of Legacy Management, we implement long-term stewardship plans that are designed to protect public health and the environment at legacy sites. The plans are site specific and comply with environmental laws and regulations. We also maintain records and respond to public inquiries for these sites.

Sites that present no future radiological risk to the public are considered suitable for unrestricted use. For sites that require long-term stewardship, we conduct environmental monitoring and regular inspections, implement land-use restrictions, and maintain environmental protection features, such as disposal cells and groundwater treatment systems.

Preserve, Protect, and Share Records and Information

Preserving the vast collection of records generated as a result of work at legacy sites is necessary to understand these sites, document site history, and confirm that the sites were properly cleaned up. Former legacy site employees also rely on access to their occupational health records to exercise their rights and benefits. We manage the physical and electronic records of our legacy sites, programs, and operations at the Legacy Management Business Center, a National Archives and Records Administration-certified storage facility, in Morgantown, West Virginia. Proper records management will allow us to meet outreach expectations for generations to come.



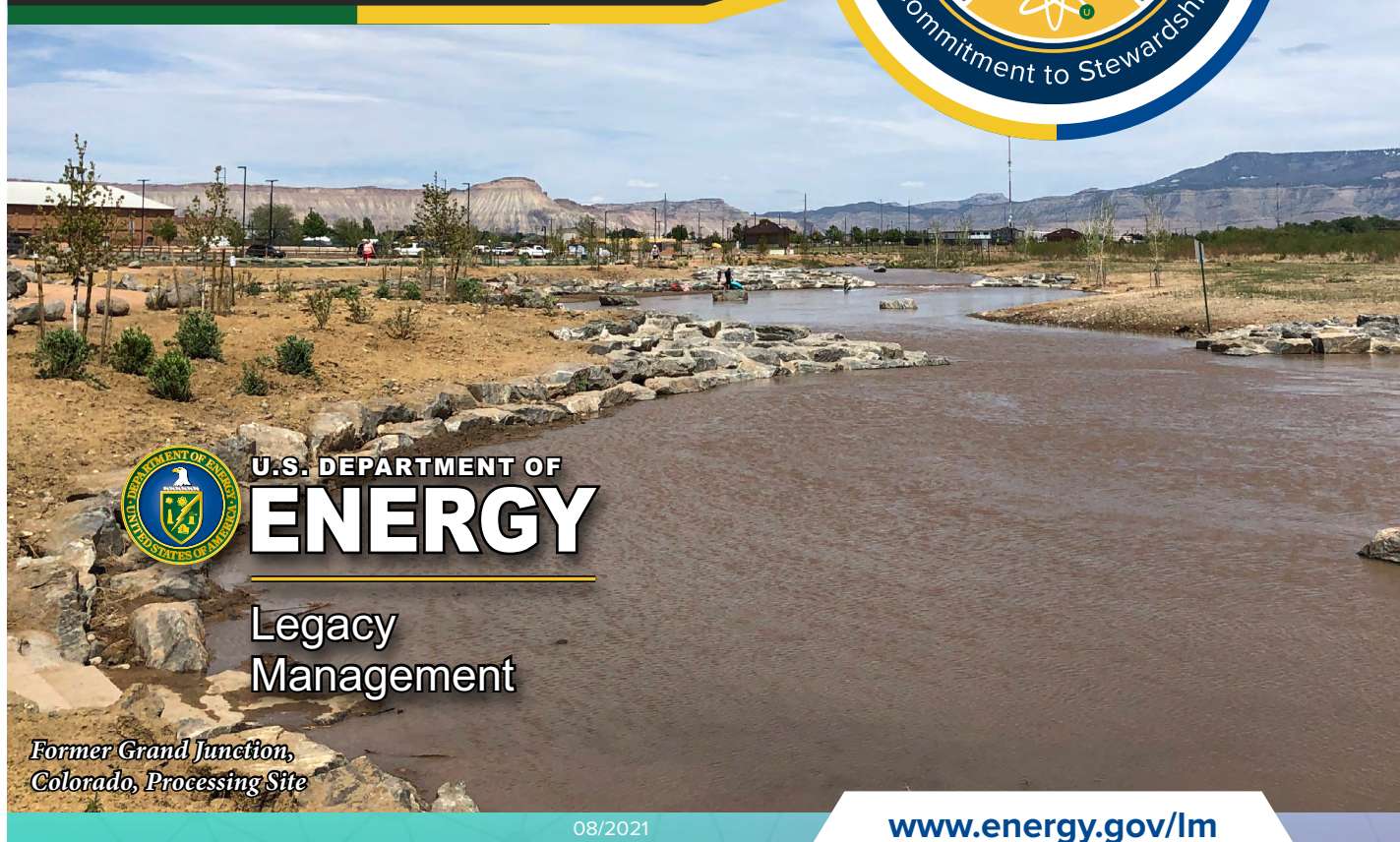
Optimize Legacy Management Land and Assets

As of 2021, the Office of Legacy Management manages approximately 18,237 acres of federal land. In some cases, legacy sites are transferred to state and local governmental agencies or sold to private enterprises for new development. In other cases, reuse opportunities are identified and implemented at sites that we maintain. For more information on our sites, please visit www.energy.gov/lm/sites/lm-sites.

Contact Information

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LEARNING FROM THE PAST, ENVISIONING THE FUTURE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Legacy
Management

*Former Grand Junction,
Colorado, Processing Site*

08/2021

www.energy.gov/lm

No group or people should bear an unreasonable amount of negative environmental effects due to industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or policies. Environmental justice is an essential part of our mission, fulfilled by treating all people fairly, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, income, or education. We encourage anyone interested in the environmental laws, regulations, and policies at legacy sites to visit our Environmental Justice webpage at www.energy.gov/lm/services/environmental-justice.



Informing and educating the public about how legacy site activities may affect individuals, families, and communities are important for managing long-term stewardship of legacy sites. Information about the sites we manage is available on our website at www.energy.gov/lm. Site-specific pages include fact sheets, historical documents, current reports, and contact information. Visit our Geospatial Environmental Mapping System (GEMS), at <https://gems.lm.doe.gov>, for interactive access to environmental data for our sites.

We also stay involved by participating in public meetings and other community forums to answer questions and update the public on current site conditions and issues.

Atomic energy research and production activities began with the Manhattan Project during World War II and continued through the pursuit of nuclear weapons and atomic energy during the Cold War era and beyond. These activities left a legacy of environmental impacts at hundreds of sites across the United States. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is the government agency responsible for addressing the negative effects of this legacy.

DOE Office of Legacy Management was created in 2003 to fulfill DOE's commitment to protect public health and the environment at legacy sites. Numerous sites and tens of thousands of acres of land have been, and will be, transferred to the Office of Legacy Management for long-term stewardship after environmental cleanup has been completed under other programs.

As of 2021, we oversee 101 sites in 29 states and Puerto Rico, working with other federal programs, state and local agencies, tribes, interest groups, and citizens.

