



Office of Legacy Management  
U.S. Department of Energy



# Program Update

**October – December 2005**

*Welcome to the October – December 2005 issue of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Program Update. This publication is designed to provide a status of activities within LM. Please direct all comments and inquiries to [LM@hq.doe.gov](mailto:LM@hq.doe.gov).*

In this issue of the Program Update, we are highlighting the completion of cleanup activities at the Rocky Flats site, discussions between LM and a nonprofit conservation group to manage a uranium mill tailings repository site located along the Sweetwater River in Wyoming, Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chairs of Excellence honored for their contribution to the Augusta Brownsfield Commission, emergency response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita evacuees, the installation of the telemetry systems at remote LM sites, and selected site highlights.

## LM Considers Partnership with Nonprofit Conservation Group



Sweetwater River

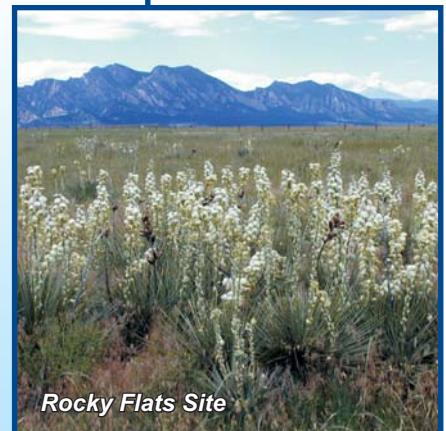
LM is exploring a partnership with a nonprofit conservation group to manage a 5,000+ acre

uranium mill tailings repository site along the Sweetwater River in Wyoming. The Split Rock site is scheduled to transfer from a private uranium mill owner to LM's Land and Site Management program in 2007. The private owner of the site and adjacent lands is completing site restoration and property divestitures in 2006. Also, they are planning to donate river land acreage to the conservation group.

Currently the nonprofit manages over 4,500 acres along the river, including private land protected by conservation easements and deed restrictions. Since the Sweetwater River is one of the most intact examples of a middle-developed riparian system remaining in Wyoming, the nonprofit goals are to prevent habitat fragmentation that typically accompanies subdivision; to better control livestock grazing through its grass banking program; and to protect the abundant native plants and animals in the area. Also, they are interested in the preservation of historic trails where the Oregon, Pony Express, and Mormon trails meet at the "Three Crossings Station" north and east of the Split Rock site boundary currently owned by the uranium mill owner.

## Rocky Flats Site Transition, Denver, Colorado

Deputy Secretary of Energy Clay Sell announced that the Department of Energy has verified that the Rocky Flats cleanup is complete. Kaiser-Hill has met the requirements of the cleanup contract, and the site is clean and safe. The deputy secretary made the announcement during a media event held at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, on December 8, 2005. LM, through its contractor, has taken over implementation of site monitoring and maintenance activities to protect the remedy for the Office of Environmental Management. Site activities include ground water and surface water monitoring, ecological monitoring, surface water system operations, operations and maintenance of two landfills, and general site erosion control.



Rocky Flats Site

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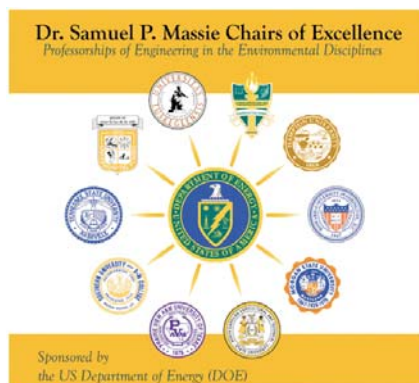
In 2006, LM will evaluate the benefits of a nonprofit conservation partnership while working with the state of Wyoming and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to finalize a long-term surveillance and maintenance plan.

### **Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chairs of Excellence Honored at Augusta Brownfields Conference**

On October 26-27, 2005, in Augusta, Georgia, the Augusta Brownfields Commission (Commission) held a Brownfields conference to highlight the accomplishments of the Commission and lay out an agenda for addressing all Brownfields issues in Augusta/Richmond County. The Commission would like to provide a model for other communities in the Savannah River Area and elsewhere to adopt as a means of addressing Brownfields issues in their neighborhoods.

The Department of Energy, the Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chairs of Excellence, and the Savannah River Site have supported the Augusta Brownfields Commission for a number of years through various capacity building projects. One of the objectives of the conference was to expand the Commission's working relationship with additional Federal agencies through the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and the Federal Interagency Task Force on Brownfields.

The Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chairs of Excellence were honored during the conference for their contribution to the Augusta Brownfields Commission. Participants included Federal, state, and local governments; the private sector; academia; and community-based organizations.



### ***Emergency Response – Coping with Katrina***

On November 17, 2005, the National Small Town Alliance conducted a lunch discussion to examine the ways Hurricanes Katrina and Rita impacted environmental justice and economic development efforts in small towns in the southeast. Small town mayors and community representatives from Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, and Oklahoma joined Federal representatives from DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and academic institutions for the discussion.

The mayors and other representatives gave accounts of inadequate responses from Federal agencies with response requirements. There were accounts of little or no communication, little or no directions, and a reluctance to accept local knowledge recommendations. One of the positives was the fact that computers distributed in small towns through DOE's Environmental Justice Project were placed in evacuee shelters. In some cases, the computers were the only ones available to the evacuees. The evacuees were able to use them to learn about their benefits and communicate with families and agencies.

"The Delta Foundation provides a range of support to small towns, limited-resource farmers, and community groups in the Mississippi Delta. After Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi coast, a number of evacuees were provided with temporary shelter in small towns in the Mississippi Delta," according to Cindy Ayers, President, Delta Foundation, Greenville, Mississippi.

"The Delta Foundation is pleased that we were able to provide the temporary shelters with computers made available through the Department of Energy and the National Small Town Alliance," Ms. Ayers said. "With these computers and Internet connections, the evacuees were able to locate and communicate electronically with friends and relatives who were spread out across the country and seek and apply for resources available through the Federal government, State of Mississippi, and other sources. Without the computers, life for the evacuees would have been stressed to a greater degree."



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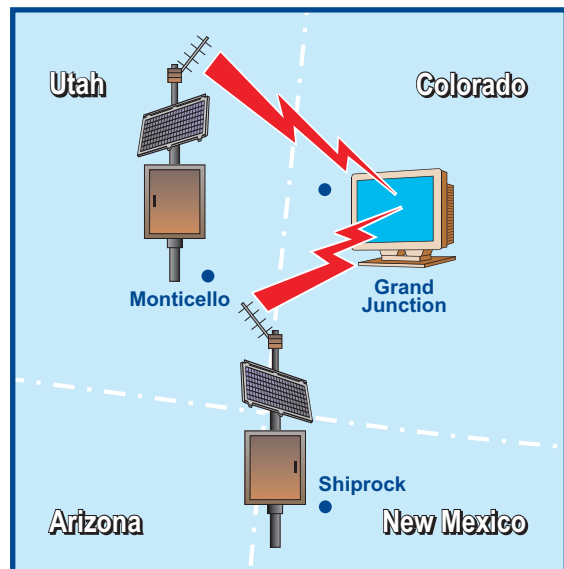
"In addition to the computers that are now available to our students and others in the community, Southern Community College was able to provide computers to the shelters that housed Hurricane Katrina evacuees," stated Lawrence F. Haygood, Jr., President, Southern Community College, Tuskegee, Alabama. "If we had not received the shipment of computers through the Department of Energy, we would not have been able to provide computers for the shelters. Your gift of computers provided a new ray of hope for so many who lost so much," he said.

### LM Installs Telemetry Systems To Optimize Data Collection at Remote Sites

Telemetry systems were recently installed at two LM sites to improve data collection activities. At the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site, eight wells in a pump-and-treat remediation system are monitored and at the Monticello, Utah, Processing Site, a ground-water treatment cell is monitored using telemetry. Prior to the telemetry systems, data were collected manually by driving to each location and recording the data. Data were then compiled and entered into a data spreadsheet. The data collection activities were typically conducted weekly and involved many miles of driving.

Data are now collected on logging devices and transmitted daily to a server at the Grand Junction, Colorado, site. Data tables are automatically backed up, and plots are automatically updated daily. Data collection intervals are commonly every five minutes instead of every week. Data currently collected include ground-water depth in wells, flow rate, line pressure, and pH. Meteorological data including rainfall and wind speed are also collected. Installation of electrical relay devices has made it possible for LM staff to optimize ground-water pumping sequences at remote sites without leaving the Grand Junction Site.

Because the telemetry data are examined daily, LM technical staff can respond rapidly to unexpected system performance. Recently, production from five wells at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site stopped suddenly due to precipitation of mineral scale in a distribution pipe. Increases in line pressure were observed using data from the telemetry system and LM staff were able to clean the pipe and restore production quickly. In another instance, a failed pump caused contaminated ground water to overflow a collection sump, but the telemetry data provided early warning and the pump was quickly repaired. Telemetry data were used to optimize system performance at the Monticello treatment cell, which led to installation of a sump pump that increased production by 150%. Telemetry systems will be an important tool in the long-term surveillance and maintenance of the LM sites and, therefore, reduce cost and time for recording data from remote locations.



*Schematic of Telemetry System*





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### Site Highlights

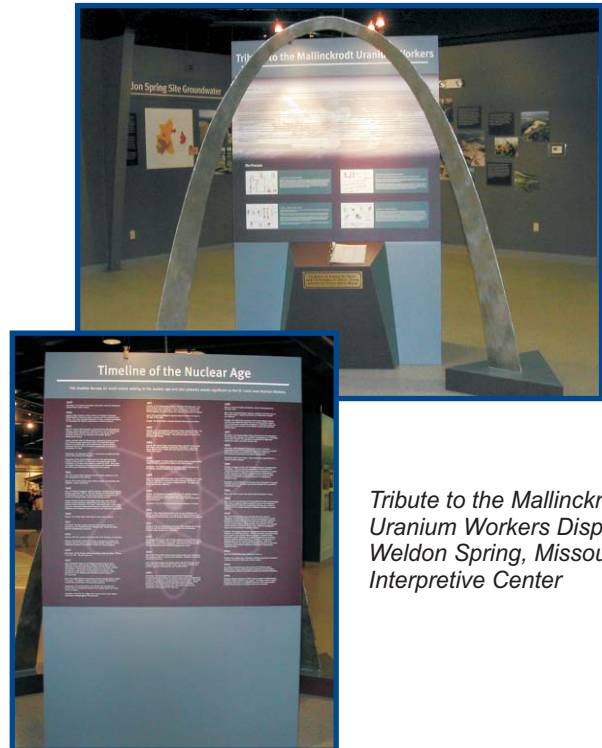
#### ***Weldon Spring, Missouri Site***

On November 29, 2005, DOE hosted an event at the Weldon Spring Site to unveil a recently completed display at the site's Interpretive Center. The Weldon Spring Site is a closed disposal facility, which requires long-term surveillance and maintenance. The Interpretive Center contains the history of the site and a new display was developed in cooperation with Denise Brock of the United Nuclear Weapons Workers, St. Louis Region, who then organized the unveiling event.

The event was attended by more than 200 individuals, including representatives from all the local television stations and numerous print and radio media, Senator Christopher Bond, Senator Jim Talent, Congressman Kenny Hulshof, a representative from Congressman Todd Aiken's office, and Missouri State Representative Kevin Threlkeld. The speakers recognized the contributions and sacrifices made by the Mallinckrodt uranium workers and overall the event was very positive with many of the elected officials also thanking the Department of Energy for its contributions to the display.

#### ***Uranium Leasing Program Environmental Assessment***

LM is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for its Uranium Leasing Program. The EA evaluates the environmental impacts of renewing 13 active lease tracts and re-opening up to 25 inactive tracts for uranium and vanadium mining. The lease tracts are located on the Uncompaghere Plateau in western Colorado. The current schedule has the draft EA being reviewed by cooperating agencies in January and by the public in late February 2006.



*Tribute to the Mallinckrodt  
Uranium Workers Display at  
Weldon Spring, Missouri,  
Interpretive Center*

#### ***Mound Site Transition, Miamisburg, Ohio***

In November 2005, the DOE LM representative began working on site at Mound. Transition activities between the Office of Environmental Management and LM continue. Early drafts of both the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) and the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan (LTSMP) have been developed and are available at <http://www.lm.doe.gov/land/sites/oh/mound/mound.htm>.



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