



Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) announces the availability of a *Draft Rulison Path Forward* report. DOE developed the path forward report as a guidance document for Colorado state regulators and other interested stakeholders in response to increased drilling for natural gas reserves near the underground nuclear explosion site in Rulison, Colorado.

Project Rulison was the second natural gas reservoir stimulation experiment in the Plowshare Program, which was designed to develop peaceful uses for nuclear energy. On September 10, 1969, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor agency of DOE, detonated a 40-kiloton nuclear device 8,426 feet below the ground surface in an attempt to release commercially marketable quantities of natural gas. The blast vaporized surrounding rock and formed a cavity about 150 feet in diameter. Although the contaminated materials from drilling operations were subsequently removed from the surface of the blast site, no feasible technology exists to remove subsurface radioactive contamination in or around the test cavity.

The report is available on the DOE-LM website at www.lm.doe.gov/land/sites/co/rulison/rulison.htm. A hard copy of the report can be requested by calling 1-866-559-8316 (toll free) or by sending an e-mail to Rulison@lm.doe.gov.

The draft report has been reviewed by staff from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, two state agencies involved with regulating the site. The comments received by the two agencies were incorporated in the report. DOE plans to gather and assess public input before finalizing the path forward and invites interested citizens to review and comment on the draft report. Comments and suggestions should be submitted to DOE by August 14, 2009.

Email comments to Rulison@lm.doe.gov
Fax comments to 970-248-6040

Mail comments to:
Rulison Path Forward Comments
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Sincerely,

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