material to approximate the original 100-year floodplain. However, the manmade ground elevations of the tailings pile at the Union Carbide site would not be reestablished, which would increase the area of the 100-year floodplain at the processing site by approximately 7 acres. Remedial action at the North Continent site would not increase the size of the 100-year floodplain.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Two cultural resource sites, one near the Union Carbide processing site and the other near the Burro Canyon disposal site, are not expected to be affected by remedial action activities. Both of these cultural resource sites would be fenced and avoided during remedial action, and the site near the Union Carbide processing site would be further protected by a barrier to shield against dust, rocks, and exhaust fumes. If any additional cultural resources are identified during the remedial action (e.g., subsurface resources), work would stop in the area of the cultural resources, and the appropriate state and Federal agencies would be consulted to determine the significance of and protection for the resources. The Ute Mountain, Southern, and Northern Ute Tribes were also consulted to determine whether the proposed remedial action would impact any tribal cultural use areas. No impacts were identified.

Land Use

The remedial action would result in the temporary and permanent disturbance of approximately 335 acres of land. This would result in the temporary and permanent loss of grazing forage at the Slick Rock processing sites, Burro Canyon disposal site, and Dolores River and Disappointment Valley borrow sites. The DOE would mitigate the temporary and permanent loss of grazing forage in accordance with land-use agreements negotiated with affected grazing lessees and private landowners.

The final restricted Burro Canyon disposal site would encompass approximately 57 acres, and any future use of this area would be precluded. After remedial action, the Slick Rock processing sites would be released for any use consistent with existing landuse controls.

Six unpatented mining claims exist within the proposed permanent withdrawal area. The DOE would compensate valid claim holders to the extent required by law.

Socioeconomics

The remedial action impacts on employment, housing, community

services, and the economy would be minimal due to the short duration of the remedial action and the relatively small number of workers required. These impacts would be expected to be distributed among numerous nearby and more distant communities; consequently, no single community would be affected substantially by the remedial action. The wages and salaries paid to remedial action workers and expenditures for equipment, materials, and supplies would have direct, positive impacts on the economies of San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma Counties. The local economies also would benefit indirectly as these wages, salaries, and expenditures are respent locally on other goods and services. Direct and indirect expenditures would generate tax revenues that would be available to local and state government

Transportation

The remedial action would increase the traffic volume on County Roads S8, T11 and State Highway 141. A portion of County Road S8 would be relocated to allow cleanup of the Union Carbide processing site. These roads and highway would be improved as necessary, and other mitigative measures (e.g., trained flag persons and temporary warning signs) would be implemented as required to mitigate the potential traffic hazards. After remedial action, these roads and highway would be returned to their original locations and conditions. The public would be restricted from access to County Roads S9 and 10R and a private disposal site access road off T11 during remedial action, which is expected to last 19 months.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

The no action alternative would consist of leaving the contaminated materials in their present conditions and locations at the Slick Rock processing sites. The contaminated materials would continue to be exposed to erosion, and eventual erosion of the contaminated materials would result in the transport of contaminants into the Dolores River. The processing sites and adjacent areas would remain unusable. The contaminated materials would also be susceptible to unauthorized removal and use by humans, which could cause more widespread contamination and increased public health hazards. The no action alternative is not a legal alternative for the DOE and would not satisfy the requirements of the UMTRCA (PL 95-604).

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

The DOE's analysis of disposal site alternatives encompassed technical, environmental, and cost factors, as well as the risks associated with each alternative. Alternatives evaluated but rejected were 1) stabilization of the mill tailings in place at the processing sites, 2) stabilization of the mill tailings at other locations near the processing sites, and 3) colocating the mill tailings at other uranium mill tailings sites. The first alternative was rejected because the major portion of the tailings would be stabilized in the flood plain of the Dolores River and water resources protection would be inadequate. The second was rejected due to the other sites' proximity to ground water. The third was rejected because the cost of disposal would result in significant increases in cost by a factor of two and six, respectively, over the cost of disposal at Burro Canyon.

Determination

Based on the information and analyses in the EA, the DOE has determined that the proposed remedial action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Signed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this 27th day of January, 1995.

Bruce G. Twining,

Manager.

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Office of Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Energy Financial Assistance Program for University Reactor Sharing

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE). **ACTION:** Notice inviting grant applications.

SUMMARY: The Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), hereby announces that invitations have been sent to all U.S. colleges and universities with a licensed, operating nuclear reactor that have an interest in making their reactor facility available to other educational institutions.

The objectives of the program are to provide opportunities needed by educational institutions, without these facilities, for research, education and training of their faculty and students in the nuclear sciences and technology. The grants are used to offset costs of