

For further information on the APF, please visit any of the following Information Repositories:

BLM
Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 Hwys 6 and 24
Glenwood Springs, CO

Garfield County Library- Parachute Branch
244 Grand Valley Way
Parachute, CO

Garfield County Library
Rifle Branch
107 E. 2nd Street
Rifle, CO

BLM website:

www.co.blm.gov/gsra/gshome.htm

Contact:

Mr. Brian Hopkins
Media Contact
Bureau of Land Management
Glenwood Springs, CO
(970) 947-2840



The buildings and structures of the Anvil Points Research Facility were demolished and removed in 1986. This is a recent photo of the waste shale pile looking south.



Anvil Points Research Facility Site Project Update - August 2004

The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is conducting site investigations at the former Naval Oil Shale Reserve, Anvil Points Research Facility in Rifle, Colorado. These investigations will support a non-time-critical removal action at the former facility in accordance with the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and determine whether any other environmental hazards are present at the site.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The federal government constructed the Anvil Points Research Facility (APF) in 1947 to pioneer the mining and processing of oil shale. Under this process, called a retorting process, the mined shale was crushed and heated at high temperatures to release an oil-bearing substance called kerogen. Fine raw shale from the crushing (too small to undergo the retorting process), and spent oil shale from the retorting process was deposited along the steep slopes of West Sharrard Gulch, an intermittent tributary of the Colorado River.

During its operation, the facility generated approximately 350,000 to 400,000 tons of retorted and fine raw shale waste. Since the facility was decommissioned in 1986, numerous environmental investigations have been performed to determine whether the shale pile is releasing hazardous waste or hazardous substances to the environment.

In 2000, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment determined that inorganic contaminants, primarily arsenic, in the waste shale could be a risk to human health and the environment. The BLM initiated field investigations to evaluate measures to stabilize or remove the shale pile and eliminate the possibility of contaminants being released into the environment. The



Spent oil shade was deposited along the slopes of West Sharrard Gulch during the approximately 40 years of operation of the Anvil Points Research Facility. This photo was taken when the facility was still in operation.

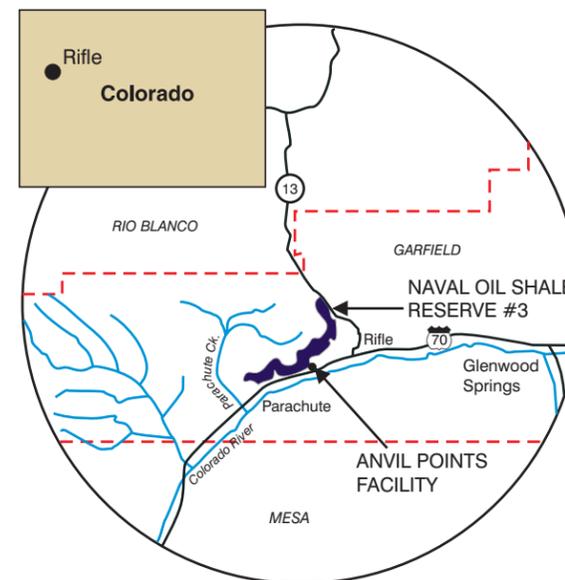
investigations are being conducted in accordance with CERCLA under a memorandum of understanding between the BLM, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the former owners of the site. (See CERCLA Process on the next page for activities under CERCLA.)

The results of the field investigations and alternatives to remove or stabilize the shale pile will be documented in an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report. This report will be made available for public review and comment when the draft report is complete.

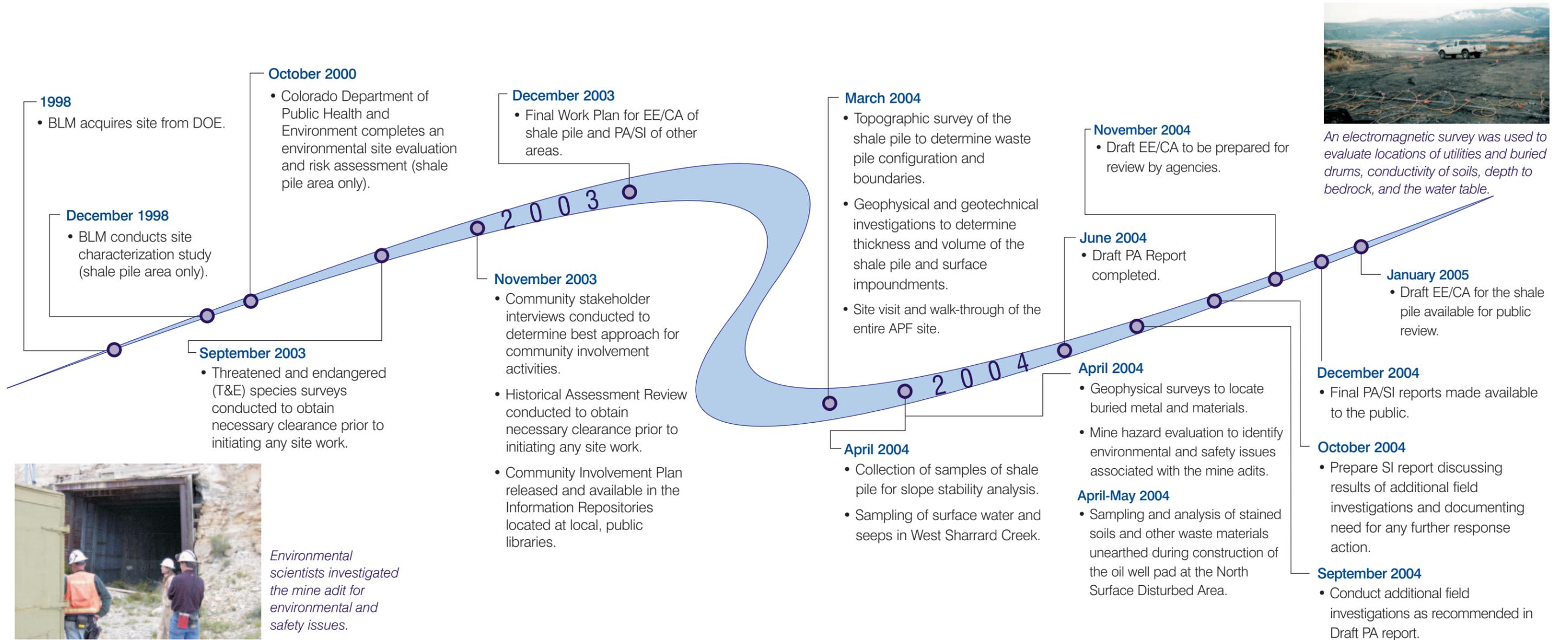
Other potential areas of concern at the APF are undergoing a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) to determine what, if any, impact these areas have on human health and the environment. (A PA/SI is the initial stage of the CERCLA Process as shown on the next page.)

These other potential areas of concern include the former Town Site, Plant Site, Bone Yard (e.g., materials storage area), North Surface Disturbed Area, Mine Bench and Workings, and Water Pumping/Treatment Plant. These areas have not been as extensively investigated as the shale pile, and potential hazards posed by any contamination in these areas are not currently known. However, once completed, results of the studies to assess the hazards in these areas will be documented in a PA and subsequent SI report and made available for public review.

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 1009
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602



PROJECT ROADMAP

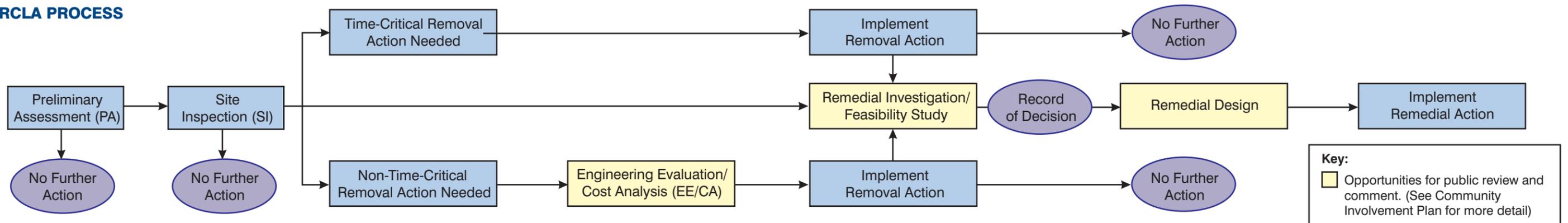


An electromagnetic survey was used to evaluate locations of utilities and buried drums, conductivity of soils, depth to bedrock, and the water table.



Environmental scientists investigated the mine adit for environmental and safety issues.

CERCLA PROCESS



DEFINITIONS

Preliminary Assessment (PA): limited-scope investigation involving the collection of readily available information about a site and its surrounding area.

Site Inspection (SI): Technical phase designed to collect more extensive information on the extent and severity of hazards posed by a hazardous waste site.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA): Study undertaken by the lead agency when a removal action is warranted to identify and evaluate removal action alternatives.

Removal Action: Action taken to abate, prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate a release or threat of release of hazardous substances.