

20 YEARS AGO today

BY NEL BURKETT

Passive solution pitched for uranium contamination
Let Mother Nature take care of things
by Melissa Ruch

From 1958 to 1962, uranium ore from Cochetopa Pass was processed in Gunnison, just southwest of the city limits, near the county airport. From 1992 to 1995, the tailings and other contaminated materials were removed. The last cleanup phase directed by the Department of Energy (DOE) and administered by the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project (UMTRA), is to bring the uranium levels in compliance with EPA standards. Health risks associated with uranium contamination are low, according to DOE; however, with concentrated levels, there is an increase of its toxicity and carcinogenic characteristics.

The UMTRA computer modeling shows that in 100 years the uranium contamination in the groundwater will naturally flow through the Gunnison River to Blue Mesa, where it will ultimately reach a point of non-detection. This is the solution that the DOE prefers. The option includes a proposed institutional control boundary line that would restrict groundwater use for irrigation uses. Thus, property owners within that boundary would have to be connected to an outside water source.

The Department of Energy pitched this solution at a public meeting held on Tuesday, March 5. The three options the DOE is working within its proposed environmental assessment (EA) are: (1) no action, (2) passive remediation, in this case natural flushing, and (3) active remediation - for example, the pump-



Veronica Jarolimek celebrates waist-deep snow in the town park last Friday. PHOTO BY PETE SHARP

and-treat scenario. Pump and treat is where the contaminated groundwater is removed from the ground and then treated.

DOE program manager Don Metzler explained at the March 5 meeting that the no-action scenario is unacceptable at the Gunnison site because contamination has occurred and is present. He also explained the third option, pump and treat, would be ineffective in Gunnison due to a thick aquifer and carries a high cost.

Thus, Metzler pitched the natural flushing option. This means the DOE would continue to monitor wells and federal standards would have to be met for 100 years.

Gunnison County long range planner Dave Michaelson questioned the natural flushing option. "So the only difference between do nothing and natural flushing is monitoring it and potentially expanding municipal water supply?"

Metzler responded, "Do nothing is we walk away, we leave town. [Natural flushing] is we study it intensely, we monitor it, we have institutional controls, we help fund the water line."

The two-and-a-half-hour meeting served as an introduction to Hydrology 101, a question-and-answer period or concerned residents and a chance for the county commissioners to voice their concern over the water system expansion into the affected areas.

Metzler explained to a crowd of 35 at the public meeting that natural flushing is the most effective choice for this UMTRA site.

According to Metzler, the agency's modeling shows the uranium contamination in the groundwater (plume) will eventually spread and dilute so that the contamination levels are below federal standards. Questions arose from the crowd over the natural flushing theory. Resident Steve Schechter asked where the contamination would go.

"Just good old-fashioned dilution. It won't go to Blue Mesa," answered Metzler. "It will dilute to background levels."

Metzler, using maps, showed where and how the contaminated groundwater would move to in the next century. The DOE speculates that the affected groundwater, referred to as a "plume," will move southwesterly of the former mill site. The boundaries discussed were surrounding the former mill site, following the Gunnison River, up to Highway 50, east of the county airport's dirt landing strip and onto Tomichi Creek. Property owners within this boundary include Gunnison County, Valco Inc. and the Dos Rios subdivision.

In addition to monitoring wells in the natural flushing option, institutional controls must be placed on the uses of groundwater on a certain area

above the traveling plume. The proposed institutional controls are restricting domestic use of groundwater, maintaining agricultural use and extending the existing water line.

In 1992, because of the uranium contamination, the Dos Rios subdivision was taken off separate wells and attached onto the municipal water line with a new water system. The county told the DOE last week that they expect DOE dollars to pay not just for additional water lines off the Dos Rios weather system, but for a total expansion of the water system to accommodate the possible density and development that could occur on the property included in the institutional control boundary.

"This is not just as simple as extending lines," said county commissioner Fred Field, "but a replacement of the system."

Field also asked Metzler if it was mandatory that the county put the institutional controls in. Metzler said it was not.

The DOE closed the public meeting on Tuesday night saying it would sit down with the county in good faith and discuss the water system expansion. Metzler said the next steps for the EA are to move ahead with the natural flushing option and to install more wells for monitoring south of Valco's gravel pits. *Story edited for space.*

Nel Burkett is a fan of history and enjoys when the present is put in the context of the past.



Skiers like Scott Thomes kept their face shots with them as long as they could last week. PHOTO BY EDWARD STERN

Legals

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—NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING—
CRESTED BUTTE BOARD OF ZONING
AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO
515 AND 517 TEOCALLI AVENUE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing, which may result in the granting of a vested property right, will be held on March 29, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Crested Butte Town Hall located at 507 Maroon Ave. in Crested Butte, Colorado, specific information can be found on the agenda on the Town website regarding access to the virtual meeting, for the purpose

of considering the following: The application of **Artemisia Holdings LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company** to site a single-family residence and accessory dwelling to be located at 515 and 517 Teocalli Avenue, Block 1, Tract 2 Teocalli Avenue Tracts in the R1 zone.
Additional requirements:
- **Architectural approval is**

required.
- **A conditional use permit for an accessory dwelling in the R1 zone is required.**
(See attached drawing)
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE
By Jena Greene

Published in the *Crested Butte News*. Issues of March 18 and 25, 2022. #021807



—NOTICE OF APPROVAL CREATING A VESTED PROPERTY RIGHT—

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town of Crested Butte approved the following site specific development plan(s) for construction or subdivision within the Town which creates a three year vested property right pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, section 24-68-103 (as amended). The “vested property right” gives the following applicant(s) the right to undertake and conditions of the approval for their site-specific development plan(s).

February 23, 2022:
Pryor Family Revocable Trust:

to site an accessory dwelling to be located at 408 Ninth Street, Block 70, Tract 2 Verzuh Ranch Annexation in the R1D zone. A conditional use permit for an accessory dwelling in the R1D zone was granted. More information is available at the Town Office located at 507 Maroon Ave., Crested Butte, CO.TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE
by Jena D'Aquila

Published in the *Crested Butte News*. Issue of March 18, 2022. #031801

—NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING—
CRESTED BUTTE BOARD OF ZONING
AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO
624 GOTHIC AVENUE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing, which may result in the granting of a vested property right, will be held on March 29, 2022 beginning at **6:00 p.m.** in the Crested Butte Town Hall located at 507 Maroon Ave. in Crested Butte, Colorado, specific information can be found on the agenda on the Town website regarding access to the virtual meeting, for the purpose of considering the following:

The application of the **Town of Crested Butte** to site congregate housing at the existing bed and breakfast located at 624 Gothic Avenue, Block 54, Lots 4-5 and the adjacent alley in the T zone.

Additional requirements:
- **A conditional use permit for congregate housing in the T zone is requested**

TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE
By Jena Greene

Published in the *Crested Butte News*. Issues of March 18 and 25, 2022. #021805

Meeting Information to Connect Remotely:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86146243567
Or Telephone: Dial: US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 861 4624 3567
Public comments may be submitted at any time to the entire Council via email at towncouncil@crestedbutte-co.gov.
The times are approximate. The meeting may move faster or slower than expected.

6:00 WORK SESSION
1) Overview of Snow Storage in the Town of Crested Butte.
Staff Contact: Public Works Director Shea Earley

6:20 2) Town Attorney Training for Council.

7:00 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR OR MAYOR PRO-TEM

7:02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7:04 CONSENT AGENDA
1) March 7, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes.
Staff Contact: Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford
2) Letter of Support to the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership for the Rec Path Bridge River Access Project Grant Application.
Staff Contact: Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Director Janna Hansen
3) 2021 Preliminary Financials and 2022 High Level Budget Update.
Staff Contact: Town Manager Dara MacDonald
4) Approval from the Town Council for a Grant Application to History Colorado's State Historical Fund for a Planning Grant for the Old Rock Jail (409 Second Street).
Staff Contact: Community Development Director Troy Russ
5) Resolution No. 7, Series 2022 - A Resolution of the Crested Butte Town Council Authorizing the Grant of a Revocable License to Scott Michael Freid and Jennifer Carroll Freid to Encroach into the Right-of-Way Adjacent to the North 98.5

Feet of Lots 14, 15, and 16, Block 21 and Maroon Avenue, Town of Crested Butte.
Staff Contact: Community Development Director Troy Russ

6) Resolution No. 8, Series 2022 - A Resolution of the Crested Butte Town Council Authorizing the Grant of a Revocable License to Elk Avenue Partners LLC to Encroach into the Right-of-Way Adjacent to Lots 25-29, Block 22 and the Alley North of Elk Avenue between Third Street and Fourth Street, Town of Crested Butte.
Staff Contact: Community Development Director Troy Russ

The listing under Consent Agenda is a group of items to be acted on with a single motion. The Consent Agenda is designed to expedite Council business. The Mayor will ask if any citizen or council member wishes to have any specific item discussed. You may request that an item be removed from Consent Agenda at that time, prior to the Council's vote. Items removed from the Consent Agenda will be considered under New Business.

7:06 PUBLIC COMMENT
Citizens may make comments on item not scheduled on the agenda. Those commenting should state their name and physical address for the record. Comments may be limited to five minutes.

7:12 STAFF UPDATES

7:17 LEGAL MATTERS

7:22 NEW BUSINESS
1) Crested Butte Fire Protection District (CBFPD) North Conceptual Annexation Request.
Staff Contact: Community Development Director Troy Russ

7:50 2) Town of Crested Butte Water and Sewer Rate Structure Discussion.
Staff Contact: Public Works Director Shea Earley

8:20 3) (First Reading) Ordinance No. 5, Series 2022 - An Ordinance of the Crested Butte Town Council Amending Crested Butte Municipal Code Chapter 8, Article 4, Section 20, Speed

and Special Hazards.
Staff Contact: Chief Marshal Mike Reilly

8:30 4) (First Reading) Ordinance No. 6, Series 2022 - An Ordinance of the Crested Butte Town Council Amending Chapter 6, Article 4 To Modify Food Truck Regulations and Repeal "Late-Night" from Food Truck Regulations.
Staff Contact: Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford

8:40 5) Schutt Conservation Easement Funding Commitment & GOCO Support Letter.
Staff Contact: Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Supervisor Joey Carpenter

8:50 6) Funding Commitment and Letter of Support for Gosan Restoration Project Natural Resource Damages Proposal.
Staff Contact: Public Works Director Shea Earley

9:00 7) Appointment to Region 10.
Staff Contact: Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford

9:10 COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

9:15 OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

9:20 DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULING FUTURE WORK SESSION TOPICS AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
• Monday, April 4, 2022 - 6:00PM Work Session - 7:00PM Regular Council
• Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - 9:00AM to Noon - Community Compass Regional Retreat
• Monday, April 18, 2022 - MEETING CANCELLED
• Monday, May 2, 2022 - 6:00PM Work Session - 7:00PM Regular Council

9:25 EXECUTIVE SESSION
1) For the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding instruction to negotiators regarding legal services.

10:00 ADJOURNMENT

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deadline is tuesday at noon • legals@crestedbutenews.com • 970.349.0500 ext. 105

—NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING—
CRESTED BUTTE BOARD OF ZONING AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO
801 #G BUTTE AVENUE

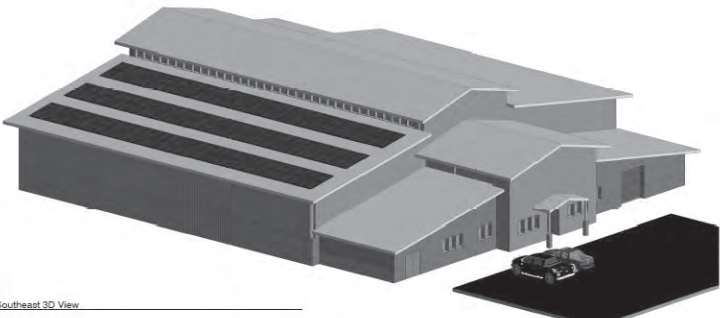
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The application of the **Town of Crested Butte** to site a new building

(wastewater processing and office) to be located at 801 #G Butte Avenue in the P zone.

Additional requirements:
- **Architectural approval is required.**
(See attached drawing)
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE
By Jena Greene

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Southeast 3D View

—NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING—
CRESTED BUTTE BOARD OF ZONING
AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO
610 AND 610 1/2 NINTH STREET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT a public hearing, which may result in the granting of a vested property right, will be held on March 29, 2022 beginning at **6:00 p.m.** in the Crested Butte Town Hall located at 507 Maroon Ave. in Crested Butte, Colorado, specific information can be found on the agenda on the Town website regarding access to the virtual meeting, for the purpose of considering the following:

The application of the **Faust Builders LLC, A Colorado Limited Liability Company** to construct a single-family residence and a cold accessory building to be located at 610 and 610 1/2 Ninth Street, Block 72, Tract 3 Verzuh Ranch Annexation in the R1D zone.

Additional requirements:
- **Architectural approval is required.**
(See attached drawing)
TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE
By Jena Greene

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