

Former Cañon City Mill and Lincoln Park Superfund Site

Site Management, Remediation and Restoration



Project Highlights

- Ensero's water treatment, assessment and permitting, construction, and restoration and remediation service lines work together to provide a holistic approach to remediation and restoration of the Former Cañon City Mill and Lincoln Park Superfund Site.
- We work collaboratively with all stakeholders at this high-profile, complex Site. Multiple regulators, agencies, and community groups are involved and actively participate.
- Ensero has evaluated a variety of groundwater remediation options which will be formalized in the Site Feasibility Study (FS) following completion of the Remedial Investigation (RI). Several in-situ and ex-situ technologies were pilot tested.
- Ensero identified opportunities to streamline the routine compliance monitoring activities to better ensure worker and public safety and improve site efficiency.

The Challenge

The Former Cañon City Mill and Lincoln Park Superfund Site (Site) is located south of Cañon City in Fremont County, Colorado. The Site is 2,500 acres and includes the former Cotter Corporation (Cotter) uranium mill and areas of mill-associated contamination, including the Lincoln Park community. In early 2018, Colorado Legacy Land (CLL) purchased the land and environmental liability from Cotter and was immediately faced with assuming care and maintenance activities under the Radioactive Materials License and restoring the site under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) requirements. CLL reached out to Ensero Solutions (Ensero) for

The Ensero Solution

Ensero has taken a holistic approach to supporting CLL on all aspects of site management, reclamation, and remediation for this complex Site. Ensero is CLL's on-site contractor, providing scientific investigation, engineering design, remedy implementation, and on-site operation in a comprehensive, Site-wide package. Multiple regulators, agencies, and community groups are actively participating. Additionally, Ensero assists CLL in bond negotiations with the State of Colorado. Bonds currently exceed \$30 million between two CLL facilities.

We manage and perform comprehensive site operations and maintenance activities including compliance with the Site's Radioactive Materials license. Compliance activities include routine occupational and environmental air, soil, vegetation, surface water, and groundwater monitoring; water management and evaporation; and reporting. Because of our focus on cost-effectiveness, Ensero streamlined the program to improve efficiency and better maintain worker and offsite public safety. We use the data collected to model occupational and public doses using software called MILDOS.

Ensero also inspects impoundments and performs maintenance on the pump back systems, meters, and roads. We submit quarterly and annual reports to the State per the license requirements.



Water Distribution Pond at the Former Cañon City Mill

Ensero is currently leading the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) under the oversight of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A Community Advisory Group (CAG), consisting of local citizens, also provides input.

Under the RI/FS process, Ensero prepared a draft RI to review existing data from decades of investigations; evaluate potential effects to groundwater, soil, air, sediments, and surface water; and identify data gaps. After addressing these data gaps in a supplemental site investigation program, we will prepare a final RI and evaluate remedial alternatives in an FS that best fit the future reuse of the Site and local area. Pilot testing of a variety of in-situ and ex-situ treatment technologies designed to remediate groundwater has been performed, including evaporation, flushing with clean water, in-situ chemical reduction, and permeable reactive barriers.

Additional future activities will include design and implementation of remediation/reclamation and closure activities, including addressing uranium and molybdenum in off-site groundwater, addressing an on-site TCE plume, mitigating onsite soils, dewatering, closing tailing impoundments and restoring the site.

Vital Statistics

- The former uranium mill currently consists of a mill area, two impoundments (each ~100 acres), ore storage pads, and a few office/lab/maintenance trailers, on approximately 2,500 acres. Cotter continuously operated the mill from 1958 until 1979, and operated it intermittently until 2006.
- The mill is currently licensed by the CDPHE under a Radioactive Materials License. The Site was included on the National Priorities List in 1984.



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