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# BLM News Release

Contact:

David Boyd (on 9/12)  
Jim Sample (after 9/12)  
Megan Crandall (Utah)

BLM 970-947-2832  
BLM 303-239-3861  
BLM 801-539-4061

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## *BLM approves Whirlwind Mine plan of operations*

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.**— The Bureau of Land Management has approved the proposed Whirlwind uranium mine operation on public lands five miles southwest of Gateway, Colo.

Under the plan, Energy Fuels Resources of Lakewood, Colo., will reopen two reclaimed underground mines, the Urantah Decline and Packrat Mine. The mines will be combined into one operation called the Whirlwind Mine. The mines are located in both Mesa County, Colo., and Grand County, Utah.

BLM began an environmental assessment of the proposal in Sept. 2007, which included several opportunities for public involvement. Today's decision incorporates public comment and identifies numerous conditions of approval requiring protective measures and strict monitoring and reporting requirements.

Energy Fuels expects to mine 100-200 tons of uranium ore per day from the underground mine over the next 10 years beginning later this year. The ore will be trucked to Blanding, Utah, for processing, via John Brown Road, Colorado State Highway 141, Colorado State Highway 90/Utah State Highway 46 and Highway 191 to Blanding.

The BLM's role in the approval process, as the administrator of public lands, is only part of a complex planning process for Energy Fuels Resources. The company was also required to submit a Mesa County Conditional Use Application, which is similar in content to the Plan of Operations submitted to the BLM. This application was evaluated and approved earlier this year by the county. The 112(d) Permit Application, also similar in content to the Plan of Operations and required of the company, was submitted to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and approved by the state in February 2008.

A map of the Whirlwind Mine and additional information may be viewed online at [www.blm.gov/co](http://www.blm.gov/co) (select Grand Junction on the interactive map).

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