



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

Docket No. 40-8778  
License No. SMB-1393

Molycorp, Inc.  
ATTN: Ms. Barbara K. Dankmyer  
Resident Manager  
300 Caldwell Avenue  
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

Dear Ms. Dankmyer:

I have received and reviewed your February 15, 1993 letter report entitled "Decommissioning Alternatives for Molycorp Site in Washington, Pennsylvania." The report includes a broad range of decommissioning alternatives. Several of these alternatives are highly site-specific and their feasibility may depend on the quantity of contaminated material and the physical, radiological, and chemical properties of the material. Molycorp's site characterization activities should assist in selecting the most suitable alternative for remediating this site. We recognize that Molycorp will continue to explore these, and perhaps other alternatives, during site characterization and in the development of its Site Decommissioning Plan.

As indicated in our comments on Molycorp's Site Characterization Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Characterization Protocol for Radioactive Contaminated Soils may also provide useful insight into a cost-effective remediation alternative for your site. One other decommissioning alternative that Molycorp may wish to consider is "soil washing" to reduce the volume of contaminated material requiring disposal. This approach could potentially take advantage of the reported low solubility and high density of slag in separating radiologically contaminated materials from non-contaminated soils.

Molycorp may obtain additional information on soil washing and other potentially applicable technologies by obtaining a copy of EPA's Vendor Information System For Innovative Treatment Technologies (VISITT) program. This is a user-friendly computer program that provides up-to-date information on: remediation technologies, specific vendors with the technology, the stage of technology development, estimated unit cost for treating contaminated material, and other information. The program may be obtained free of charge by calling the VISITT Hotline at 800/245-4505. It should be noted that the technologies listed in this data base are innovative technologies that are in various stages of development (bench, pilot, full-scale) for the remediation of contaminated sites. Certain technologies listed in the data base, such as soil washing, may be applicable to the remediation of radiologically contaminated sites.

Molycorp may also be interested in a series of reports on site remediation (EPA/542/B-92/001-003) prepared by the Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable. These reports may be obtained by contacting the National Technical Information Service at 800/553-6847.

Barbara K. Dankmyer

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In our review of Molycorp's report on decommissioning alternatives, we also noted that the estimated cost of all the alternatives under consideration exceed Molycorp's current financial assurance of \$750,000. Molycorp will need to increase its financial assurance to cover the estimated cost of its preferred decommissioning option. This deficiency will need to be resolved by the time Molycorp submits its Decommissioning Funding Plan. In accordance with License Condition 14 D, Molycorp will submit a Decommissioning Funding Plan with its Site Decommissioning Plan or by September 30, 1994, whichever is sooner.

If you have any questions or concerns on this matter, please contact me at (301) 504-2546.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Chad J. Glenn, Project Manager  
Decommissioning and Regulatory  
Issues Branch  
Division of Low-Level Waste Management  
and Decommissioning  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc:

- G. Dawes, Molycorp
- J. Yusko, PA-DER-RP
- B. Belanger, EPA Region 3
- J. Kinneman, NRC Region I

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