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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 19, 1999

Mr. Jack Daniels
Project Manager
Molycorp Incorporated
300 Caldwell Avenue
Washington, PA 15301

**SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PART I OF THE
MOLYCORP, WASHINGTON, PA, FACILITY DECOMMISSIONING PLAN (TAC
L50037)**

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I am responding to your letter of June 30, 1999, which forwarded the Molycorp, Washington, PA facility Decommissioning Plan (DP) (Part I Revision) for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff review and approval. We have completed the initial processing of your request, which is an administrative review.

Our review indicates that your DP is acceptable to begin a technical review. However, during the initial processing, some omissions/deficiencies were identified. These deficiencies are noted below.

1. A concise division between Part I and Part II of the DP is needed. Items remaining in Part I of the DP need further detail, specifically, in the areas of the schedule and proposed tasks (e.g. specifications for, and location of, staging areas and stockpiles).
2. The thorium concentration data within the DP is not consistent with the Earth Vision distribution figures in the DP or the concentration data from the Site Characterization Report (SCR). Further, there is no explanation of the relationship between data and figures from the DP and those from the SCR, and no justification has been provided for the exclusion of the slag pile data from thorium distribution and volume considerations.
3. A plot plan should be provided showing the "affected" and "unaffected" areas (as recommended by NUREG/CR-5849) on the Molycorp Washington Site. In addition, information should be supplied (or provide the reference and document) which supports the designation of "unaffected" for every building on the Molycorp Site.
4. Molycorp should provide (e.g., in the radiation protection program) dose estimates for workers and the public, and a radiological accident analysis for the period during decommissioning activities.

5. Molycorp should submit a revised environmental report to reflect the changes indicated by the Part I revision for the Molycorp, Washington DP.
6. Molycorp should provide information concerning the types of environmental monitoring to be performed during decommissioning activities and prior to license termination.
7. Molycorp should provide the isotopic quantities and location of all radioactive isotopes presently on the Washington site.
8. Molycorp should clearly describe and analyze the remediation alternatives that it considered for the Part I revised DP in the revised environmental report.

The identified information should be provided within 30 days of the date of this letter, so that the schedule for the technical review is not impacted. Please note that the technical review may identify omissions in the submitted information or technical issues not identified during the administrative review that require additional information.

Please contact Mr. Roy Person of my staff at (301) 415-6701 if you have any questions related to our review.

Sincerely,



Larry W. Camper, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-8778
License No.: SMB-1393

cc: Molycorp, Washington
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