

September 29, 2000

Donna Bergman-Tabbert, Manager
U. S. Department of Energy
Grand Junction Office
2597 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: 1999 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR TITLE I SITES

We have reviewed "1999 Annual Site Inspection and Monitoring Report for Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I Disposal Sites," dated January, 2000. The report presented the results of annual inspections in 1999 at 19 Title I uranium mill tailings sites. Based on this review, we find the report acceptable.

Our review indicates that the report provides adequate depth of coverage with an appropriate level of detail. It provides photographs of the sites and provides a good overview of the long-term surveillance activities conducted at the sites.

Overall, the NRC finds that the reporting requirements of 10 CFR 40.27 were met by the report. The site inspections were conducted in accordance with the specific long-term surveillance plans for each site, and the procedures used by the inspectors comply with those requirements. The NRC staff considers it important for DOE to have a stand-alone document such as this that provides information on how specific regulatory requirements have been met and provides information on follow-up activities for potential problem sites.

We have one suggestion for improving the report. Table Intro-1, presented in the Summary Section, could be more helpful by listing issues/concerns and directing readers to specific problem areas at specific sites. The main body of the report identifies specific findings and observations for each site; however, Table Intro-1 indicates that there were no findings, concerns, or observations at any site. For example, the main body of the report indicates that deterioration of rock is a concern at the Lakeview site, yet no mention of a possible rock quality problem is made in the summary table. We recommend that this table direct the reader to problem areas identified at any site.

This review was performed by Ted Johnson. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Johnson at (301) 415-6658, or by e-mail at TJL@nrc.gov.

Ms. D. Bergman-Tabbert

-2-

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Philip Ting, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Ms. D. Bergman-Tabbert

-2-

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