

April 2, 2001

Mr. George W. Dawes
Senior Scientist
Molycorp, Inc.
300 Caldwell Avenue
Washington, PA 15301

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF REQUEST FOR AN AMENDMENT TO LICENSE
SMB-1393 (DOCKET NO. 040-08778) PROPOSING AN ALTERNATE
DECOMMISSIONING SCHEDULE (TAC L52054)

Dear Mr. Dawes:

I am responding to your letter of March 16, 2001, which forwarded the Molycorp, Washington, PA, facility alternate decommissioning schedule 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 the information provided is not acceptable to begin a technical review. The staff concluded that insufficient detail was provided in the schedule to explain why some decommissioning activities should take as long as indicated. The activities presented in the Gantt chart were not described in a text format and the staff found that it was not possible to understand the reason for a protracted schedule. In a telephone discussion on March 26, 2001, you were invited to come to NRC headquarters for an open meeting to discuss the level of detail that should be provided in your alternate decommissioning schedule.

Please contact me at (301) 415-5869 if you have any questions related to our review.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tom McLaughlin, Project Manager
Facilities Decommissioning Section
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-08778
License No.: SMB-1393

cc: Molycorp, Washington Distribution List

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