

August 23, 2002

Mark E. Hoffman, P.E., Project Manager  
ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company  
3225 Gallows Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22037

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 40-8102/2002201

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

On July 30, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an inspection of your former Highland Uranium Mill site located in Converse County, Wyoming. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

The inspection included a review of site status, management organization and controls, site operations, construction, and the environmental monitoring program. Based on the results of this inspection, no violations or deviations were identified; therefore, no response to this letter is required. Although activities at the Highland site were limited during this inspection interval, activities appeared to have received an appropriate level of management oversight.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room)."

M. Hoffman

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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Gary S. Janosko, Chief  
Uranium Processing Section  
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8102  
License No.: SUA-1139

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report  
40-8102/2002201

cc: (w/enclosure)

Mr. Scott Blakeley  
Prime Site Contractor  
Exxon Coal and Minerals Company  
c/o Pronghorn Pump Service  
P.O. Box 1311  
Glenrock, Wyoming 82637

Mr. David Finley  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Solid and Hazardous Waste Division  
122 W. 25th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Land Quality Division  
122 W. 25th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

bcc: (w/enclosure): DCD (IE-07)

August 23, 2002

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**ENCLOSURE**

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No.: 40-8102

License No.: SUA-1139

Report No.: 40-8102/2002201

Licensee: ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company

Facility: ExxonMobil Highland Uranium Mill Site

Location: Converse County, Wyoming

Date: July 30, 2002

Inspector: John H. Lusher, Health Physicist  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch  
Uranium Processing Section

Accompanied by: Terry Johnson, Surface Hydrologist  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch  
Uranium Processing Section

Richard Codell,  
Division of Waste Management

Mark Plessinger, Stoller (Contractor) for  
DOE, Grand Junction Office

Attachments: Supplemental Inspection Information  
Photographs

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Former ExxonMobil Highland Mill Site  
NRC Inspection Report 40-8102/2002-01

This inspection included a review of site status, site operations, and construction.

### **Site Operations**

- Site activities were limited to reclamation maintenance, settlement repair, and sediment removal. These activities appeared to have been conducted in accordance with the license and regulatory requirements.
- The licensee's level of site security was adequate for the amount of work in progress at the site. Site fences were in good condition, and perimeter postings were appropriate.

### **Onsite Construction**

- NRC inspectors reviewed sediment removal from diversion channels and placement of erosion protection materials. The rock was placed in a manner that all specifications and minimum rock layer thickness requirements were met.
- Site reclamation, including placement of fill, had been accomplished in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. However, continued surveillance of settlement monuments is needed to assure that excessive tailings consolidation does not take place.

## Report Details

### **1 Decommissioning Inspection Procedure for Uranium Mill Sites (87654) and Site Status**

Licensed activities at ExxonMobil's former Highland Uranium Mill site has been accomplished by a contractor. No ExxonMobil personnel were stationed at the site. The ExxonMobil site project manager has visited the site on an as-needed basis. Routine activities at the site included groundwater monitoring, settlement monument monitoring, well maintenance, weed control, and filling in of the settled area on the tailings impoundment. Re-seeding of the reclamation area was completed, and sediment was removed from the main drainage channel.

### **2 On-Site Construction (88001)**

The inspectors determined by direct observation that on-site construction is being accomplished in accordance with the license application, license conditions and construction specifications.

#### **2.1 Inspection Scope**

A site tour was performed to verify that site activities were being conducted in accordance with application requirements. Activities at the site included inspections of erosion protection, sediment removal, and settlement repair.

#### **2.2 Observations and Findings**

During the site tour, the licensee noted that the settlement area on the tailings impoundment had been filled, and that new settlement monument sites had been established. Additionally, vegetation seeding of the cover and disturbed areas was accomplished in the fall of 2001.

#### **2.3 Conclusion**

Site activities were limited to reclamation maintenance. These activities appeared to have been conducted in accordance with applicable license and regulatory requirements. Site fences were in good condition, and perimeter postings were appropriate. Additional geotechnical review may be necessary to determine adequacy of settlement repair.

### **3 Exit Meeting Summary**

The inspector presented the inspection results to the representatives of the licensee at the conclusion of the inspection on July 30, 2002. Licensee representatives acknowledged the findings as presented. The participants did not identify as proprietary, any information provided to, or reviewed by, the inspectors.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### **PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED**

#### Licensee

Mark E. Hoffman, P.E., Project Manager

#### Other

Scott Blakeley, Owner, Pronghorn Pump and Repair

Clint Stracham, MFG

Louis Miller, MFG

### **INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED**

IP 87654: Decommissioning Procedure for Uranium Mill Sites

IP 88001: Onsite Construction

### **ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED AND DISCUSSED**

#### Opened

None

#### Closed

None

#### Discussed

None

### **LIST OF ACRONYMS USED**

PDR Public Document Room



**Exxon Mobil Tailings Impoundment Looking East North East**



**Exxon Mobil Tailings Impoundment Drainage Ditch Looking North**



Exxon Mobil Main Drainage Channel Sediment Removal Area Looking North