

OCT 10 1991

SW/LOW/INSP RPT TRANS

Albert R. Chernoff, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dear Mr. Chernoff:

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, I am transmitting, under cover of this letter, two copies of our inspection report on the Lowman, Idaho UMTRA site. This routine construction inspection was conducted on September 18, 1991, by T. L. Johnson and D. S. Rom. No open issues were identified as a result of this inspection. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact me at FTS 492-3439 or the NRC Project Manager, S. L. Wastler, at FTS 492-0582.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

John J. Surmeier, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Low-level Waste Management
and Decommissioning

Enclosures: As stated

cc: P. Mann, DOE/AL
M. Abrams, DOE/AL
R. Donovan, Idaho
C. Cody, Idaho
K. Feldman, EPA

Distribution: Central File# NMSS r/f LLUR r/f ETenEyck
RBangart JSurmeier JAustin PLOhaus DGillen
SWastler TJohnson MThaggard JCallan, RIV RHa11, RIV, URFO
DRom DJacoby, RIV, URFO
PDR YES X ACNW YES X
SUBJECT ABSTRACT: LOWMAN ROUTINE CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION

OFC :LLUR :LLUR :LLUR

NAME: SWastler :DGillen :JSurmeier:

DATE: 10/10/91 : 10/10/91 : 10/10/91 :

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

OCT 02 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR: Daniel Gillen, Section Leader
Remedial Action Section
LLUR/LLWM/NMSS

FROM: Daniel Rom
Remedial Action Section
LLUR/LLWM/NMSS

SUBJECT: REPORT OF INSPECTION OF LOWMAN UMTRA SITE

On September 18, 1991, T. L. Johnson and D. S. Rom visited the Lowman, Idaho UMTRA site to perform a routine construction inspection. Enclosed for your information is the inspection report for that visit.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel S. Rom", is positioned above the typed name and title.

Daniel Rom
Remedial Action Section
LLUR/LLMW/NMSS

Enclosure: As stated

cc: J. J. Surmeier

~~9110000333~~

ENCLOSURE 1

On-Site Construction Inspection Report

Facility Name: Lowman Processing and Disposal Site
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project Site
Lowman, Idaho

Inspection Conducted: September 18, 1991

NRC Personnel: Terry (Ted) Johnson
Daniel Rom

Inspection Summary:

Area Inspected: NRC Staff conducted a routine, announced inspection including review of scope of construction activities, site condition, and quality control records.

Details:

1. Persons Contacted:

Frank Bosiljevac, Department of Energy
Don Bradley, Site Manager, MK-Ferguson
Leroy Fields, QC Manager, MK-Ferguson

2. General Site Tour:

NRC Staff first watched the delivery of riprap and gravels at the staging area outside of the site. Within the stockpiles, individual large rocks had been graded and marked with spray paint to better identify size and shape characteristics.

The placement of bedding was observed on the face of the cell. Bedding was spread with a grader and compacted mechanically with rollers. Where gradation testing had been performed, we observed piles of gravels separated by size.

In the exposed radon barrier upper surface, locations where radon flux measurements were in progress were observed. We understood that measurements would begin later the same day under the observation of URFO personnel.

Ted Johnson discussed PID No. 12-S-10 which dealt with the construction of the upland rock apron. Specifically, modification of the PID to allow for the use of large riprap (>36 inches in diameter) with certain limitations was discussed. We were informed that erosion protection layer placement of large rock (Type B) would be performed in October of 1991.

3. Vicinity Properties:

We were informed that two distant vicinity properties had been cleared and the material had been hauled to Lowman by truck. No incidents were reported by DOE during the haul, which took place over winding mountain roads.

4. Disposal Cell:

NRC staff observed the completed upper surface of the radon protection barrier and the placement and compaction for bedding materials.

5. Records Review:

NRC staff reviewed rock durability tests, rock gradation tests laboratory test results, moisture-density test results, summary of results for densities with test location plans, and the Contractor's log of photographs. The frequency of all testing equalled or exceeded the specifications. In general the records were found to be well-organized and up-to-date.

6. Summary:

Following the inspection, a closeout meeting was held with MK-Ferguson representatives in the Lowman project office. It was concluded that records were reasonably complete, and no open issues requiring response were identified by NRC staff.



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LLUR/LLWM/NMSS

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