

Mr. Richard Sena, Acting Director
 Environmental Restoration Division
 Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
 Project
 U.S. Department of Energy
 2155 Louisiana NE, Suite 4000
 Albuquerque, NM 87110

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS APPLICATION FOR THE OLD CLIFTON LANDFILL
 VICINITY PROPERTY (GJ 40831-VL)

Dear Mr. Sena:

On May 9, 1995, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided responses to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's concerns related to the application of supplemental standards at the Old Clifton Landfill Vicinity Property (OCLVP). The DOE responses were supplemented by information provided in a letter of August 23, 1995, and photographs made available for examination on October 25, 1995. Based on the information provided by DOE, the NRC staff considers the concerns related to the proposed supplemental standards application to be resolved and the application to be appropriate. The staff's review of DOE's resolution of final concerns related to the OCLVP supplemental standards is enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Charlotte Abrams, at (301) 415-5808.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
 High-Level Waste and Uranium
 Recovery Projects Branch
 Division of Waste Management
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: J. Pape, DOE Alb
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW OF
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) RESPONSES TO NRC COMMENTS ON THE
APPLICATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS AT THE OLD CLIFTON LANDFILL

General Comment

The NRC staff requested that DOE prepare a database to track and help control residual radioactive material (RRM) left behind at vicinity properties from being improperly disturbed or disposed. In its letter of August 23, 1995, DOE provided information on a database of properties on which supplemental standards were applied. The database was developed by the DOE Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Team and the Grand Junction Projects Office. The NRC staff has reviewed the database sample provided by DOE and it appears that the database includes the appropriate information for the tracking of properties where supplemental standards have been applied and RRM remains. The DOE plans to transfer the maintenance of the database to its Grand Junction Project Office following the completion of the UMTRA Project in 1998.

Based on DOE's response, the staff concludes that this comment is resolved.

Specific Comment 1

The staff requested that DOE address the potential that the Old Clifton Landfill Vicinity Property (OCLVP) will be disturbed in the near future to accommodate additional sewage lagoons. DOE, in its letter of May 9, 1995, provided discussion on the probable future uses of the OCLVP and the low likelihood that the site would be excavated for the construction of additional sewage lagoons given the alternative sites available and problems that would be associated with the excavation of an abandoned landfill for sewage lagoons. Based on the discussion provided, the NRC staff agrees that excavation of the site for additional sewage lagoons is unlikely and concludes that this comment is resolved.

Specific Comment 2

See discussion above under "General Comment" heading. The NRC staff considers this comment to be resolved.

Specific Comment 3

This comment was resolved by the NRC letter of January 20, 1995.

Specific Comment 4

The NRC staff recommended that DOE explore the possibility of gathering radiological data from the northeast portion of the OCLVP during a period in which the pond located in that area is dry or very low due to seasonal variations. The DOE provided the NRC staff with access to recent photographs of the pond area taken during an extended period of minimal precipitation. The pond and surrounding swampy area continued to be inaccessible even under dry conditions; therefore, the NRC staff concludes that the northwest portion of the OCLVP has been assessed as fully as the conditions allow.

Specific Comment 5

This comment was resolved by the NRC letter of January 20, 1995.

Specific Comment 6

This comment was resolved by the NRC letter of January 20, 1995.