



Department of Energy
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 Office of Repository Development
 1551 Hillshire Drive
 Las Vegas, NV 89134-6321

QA: N/A
 Project No. WM-00011

FEB 12 2004

OVERNIGHT MAIL

ATTN: Document Control Desk
 Chief, High-Level Waste Branch, DWM/NMSS
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 11555 Rockville Pike
 Rockville, MD 20852-2738

INFORMATION ON TRANSMITTAL OF PENA BLANCA SAMPLE SPLITS

Reference: Ltr, Schlueter to Ziegler, dtd 1/02/04

In the referenced letter, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested splits of samples from the Nopal I uranium ore deposits at Pena Blanca in Chihuahua, Mexico, be sent to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA). Per your request, sample splits were shipped on January 27, 2004, to:

Dr. David Pickett
 Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
 Southwest Research Institute
 6220 Culebra Road
 San Antonio, TX 78238-5166

The samples were selected during cataloging of the core in September 2003. The samples for Dr. Pickett were selected from areas of elevated gamma activity generally associated with fractures. The samples were labeled with the Sample Management Facility sample numbers. No additional documentation was included. The samples sent were:

<u>Sample ID</u>	<u>Depth (m)</u>	<u>Formation</u>
PB1023775 MTM5	8.95	Nopal rhyolitic ash-flow tuff
PB1023798 MTM4	29.78	Coloradas ash-flow tuff
PB1023812 MTM5	37.75	Coloradas ash-flow tuff
PB1023849 MTM6	66.50	Coloradas ash-flow tuff
PB1023935 MTM6	135.90	Coloradas ash-flow tuff (just above conglomerate contact)
PB1024009 MTM4	190.80	Pozos conglomerate
PB1024052 MTM5	221.14	Pozos conglomerate (near the top of the water table)

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 km-41

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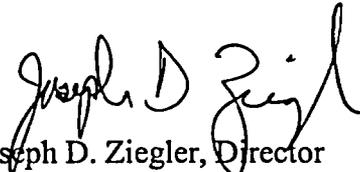
These samples fulfilled the request for:

- Fracture-filling materials from various levels, with more concentrated sampling in zones of gamma activity gradients.
- Matrix tuff and breccia, from same zones as fracture fillings.
- More concentrated sampling in any apparent high-gamma zones possibly associated with the water table (i.e., possibly from secondary accumulation).

Samples were not available to fulfill the request for:

- Representative samples in which uranium ore is visible or is likely to be present, based on gamma measurements (log or contact). Any occurrences of reduced uranium ore minerals (e.g., uraninite) would be of particular interest.
- Any occurrences of previously unidentified minerals.

There are no new regulatory commitments in this letter. If you require any additional information, please contact Neal K. Hunemuller at (702) 794-5081.



Joseph D. Ziegler, Director
Office of License Application and Strategy

OLA&S:NKH-0685

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cc:

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