

February 24, 2005

Mr. Ron Staubly, Site Manager
Department of Energy
2597 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REPAIR PLAN FOR STREAM BANK DAMAGE AT
CANONSBURG, PA DISPOSAL SITE, DOCKET WM-42

Dear Mr. Staubly:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reviewed your report submitted under letter dated January 27, 2005, concerning the inspection and repair of stream banks at the Canonsburg disposal site. In the Fall of 2004, the Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management (DOE) inspected the Canonsburg Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act - Title I site including areas along Chartiers Creek that incurred damage during high river flows resulting from Hurricanes Frances and Ivan. Your report noted two specific areas of damage, one upstream from the Strabane Road bridge and one area downstream from the Strabane Road bridge and adjacent to Section C of the site.

The upstream damage area, designated Area #1, sustained stream bank erosion after a tree was undercut by increased stream flow from the storms. The tree eventually toppled leaving a void that redirected part of the flow and caused the bank to be eroded. Your proposed repair plan calls for backfilling the area, compacting the void with pit run soil and replacing the rock surface erosion protection.

The second area, designated Area #2, sustained erosion along the stream bank and also debris deposition within the channel. The extent of the bank erosion included the length of the stream bank along Area C between the Strabane Road and railroad bridges. This is also the area that was re-enforced with geotextile in 2000. As noted in NRC's September 15, 2000 letter to DOE, vegetative erosion protection is only viable when vegetation is established and can withstand higher stream flows. Therefore, it is important that repairs along this area consider the viability of the vegetated bank protection and that rock toe protection be placed to an elevation where vegetation will thrive.

In your discussion of repairs to the area of stream bank erosion in Area 2 - south of the debris deposition, the proposed plan shows that rock fill and riprap will be placed to re-establish the toe until the slope conforms to the upper vegetated bank. In addition, the sediment will be removed from the channel and a gas line that currently crosses the stream will be relocated closer to the railroad bridge. The stream bank in the area north of the sediment deposition will be repaired by re-establishing the toe by regrading the banks then placing riprap over the entire slope face.

R. Staubly

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The NRC has reviewed the proposed repairs and concurs with your repair plan. Should you have changes to this plan or questions regarding NRC's review, please contact the NRC project manager, Ms. Jill Caverly, at 301-415-6699 or via email at jsc1@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter will be available electronically 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>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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/RA/

Gary S. Janosko, Chief
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