



WM-110

U.S. Department of Energy

2597 B ¾ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

July 25, 2005

Mr. Myron Fliegel
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
T8-F42
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Fliegel:

Enclosed for your information is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) *Remediation of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings, Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah, Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0355). In this Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), DOE proposes to clean up surface contamination and implement a ground water compliance strategy to address contamination that resulted from historical uranium ore processing at the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Site (Moab site). In April 2005, DOE announced its preferred alternatives of off-site disposal using predominantly rail transport to the Crescent Junction, Utah, site and active ground water remediation.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DOE has prepared the FEIS to assess the potential environmental impacts of remediating the Moab site and vicinity properties. DOE analyzed the potential environmental impacts of both on-site and off-site disposal alternatives and ground water remediation. DOE also analyzed the No Action alternative as required by NEPA implementing regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality.

DOE issued the draft EIS in November 2004. During a 90-day public comment opportunity that ended on February 18, 2005, DOE conducted four public hearings on the draft EIS in Moab, Green River, Blanding, and White Mesa, Utah. The hearings provided the public with an opportunity to ask questions and submit comments on the draft EIS. In preparing the FEIS, DOE considered all comments that it received, including late comments. The comments and DOE responses are included in Volumes III and IV of the FEIS.

DOE will specify its final decision on which alternatives to implement in a Record of Decision, which will be issued no sooner than 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.

The FEIS will be available electronically on the DOE Moab Project website at <http://gj.em.doe.gov/moab>, on the DOE NEPA website at www.eh.doe.gov/nepa, and in the Moab Project Public Reading Rooms.

Requests for further information or for copies of the FEIS may be directed by mail to Donald Metzler, Moab Federal Project Director, U.S. Department of Energy, 2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503, by email to moabcomments@gjo.doe.gov, by telephone toll free at (800) 637-4575, or by fax at (970) 248-7636.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Metzler", written in a cursive style.

Donald R. Metzler
Moab Federal Project Director

Enclosure:

*Remediation of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings, Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah,
Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0355)*