

March 20, 2006

Mr. Dan E. Burnham
Technical Consultant
ExxonMobil Refining and Supply
Company
3225 Gallows Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22037

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF EXXONMOBIL REQUEST FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF
SETTLEMENT MONITORING OF THE TAILINGS BASIN AT THE HIGHLAND
RECLAMATION PROJECT (TAC LU0121)

Dear Mr. Burnham:

By letter dated January 20, 2006, ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company (ExxonMobil) submitted the historic settlement monitoring data for the reclaimed uranium mill tailings basin at the Highland Reclamation Project (Highland) for review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. These data were provided to demonstrate that tailings consolidation and settlement of the tailings cover have stabilized at the Highland site. As such, ExxonMobil has requested that, based on the results of the settlement monitoring program, and the demonstrated stability of the tailings cover, the NRC approve the discontinuance of the settlement monitoring program at the Highland site.

The staff has reviewed the settlement monitoring data for the Highland tailings impoundment, and agrees with ExxonMobil that settlement of the tailings cover has stabilized. The staff's detailed review is documented in the enclosed Technical Evaluation Report (TER). Based on this review, the staff concludes that the settlement monitoring program at the Highland site may be terminated.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed TER, please contact me at (301) 415-7287 or by e-mail to MHF1@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 for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publically Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Myron Fliegel, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8102
License No. SUA-1139

Enclosure: Technical Evaluation Report

cc: R. Chancellor, DEQ, WY
M. Moxley, DEQ, WY
J. Wagner, DEQ, WY

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/RA/

Myron Fliegel, Project Manager
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
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