

U.S. Department of Energy

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March 10, 2006 . WIM-110

Mr. Myron Fliegel U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mail Stop T7J8 Two White Flint North *11545* Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852-2747

Subject: Transmittal of Calculation Sets, Attachment 2 Geology Report, Remedial Action Plan, Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project

Dear Mr. Fliegel:

Enclosed are three sets of the following calculation sets for the Moab UMTRA Project Remedial Action Plan (RAP):

- 1. Site and Regional Geology Results of Literature Research
- 2. Geologic and Geophysical Properties Surficial and Bedrock Geology of the Crescent Junction Disposal Site
- 3. Site and Regional Geomorphology Results of Literature Research
- 4. Site and Regional Geomorphology Results of Site Investigations
- *5.* Site and Regional Seismicity Results of Literature Research
- 6. Site and Regional Seismicity Results of Maximum Credible Earthquake Estimation and Peak Horizontal Acceleration
- 7. Photogeologic Interpretation

At our planned April 4 and 5, 2006 meetings at your offices, DOE will present summary information covering each of the calculation sets listed above. Additionally, DOE will present approach and progress to date on the development of RAP Attachment 1, Disposal Cell Design and Attachment 3, Ground Water Hydrology.

If you have any questions, please call me at (970) 248-7612 or Joel Berwick of my staff at (970) 248 – 6020.

Donald R. Metzler

Moab Federal Project Director

cc w/enclosure: Project File MOA 2.12 (R. Burrows)

cc w/o enclosure: J. Berwick, DOE (e) K. Karp, Stoller (e)

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Office of Environmental Management - Grand Junction

Remedial Action Plan and Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site

Attachment 2: Geology

Office of Environmental Management

Contents

- Appendix A Site and Regional Geology-Results of Literature Research
- Appendix B Geologic and Geophysical Properties-Surficial and Bedrock Geology of the Crescent Junction Disposal Site
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- Appendix E Site and Regional Seismicity-Results of Literature Research
- Appendix F Site and Regional Seismicity-Results of Maximum Credible Earthquake Estimation and Peak Horizontal Acceleration

Appendix G Photogeologic Interpretation

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Problem Statement:

Determination of the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site as the repository for the Moab uranium mill tailings material, and development of the site and regional geology sections of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) require a thorough review of available literature that applies to the Crescent Junction site. The compiled list of references is presented at the end of this calculation set and relevant information is summarized below.

This calculation will be incorporated into Attachment 2 (Geology) of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site, and summarized in the appropriate sections of the Remedial Action Selection (RAS) report for the Moab site.

Method of Solution:

Literature sources were identified using a combination of published reports and maps that were developed during the Crescent Junction site-selection process, on-line (internet-based) resources, and relevant literature citations from the other UMTRCA sites.

Assumptions:

It is assumed that the literature sources are reliable and representative of the current understanding of the geology of the region.

Calculation:

None required.

Discussion:

A general summary of geologic conditions based on the literature research is provided in this calculation set. This summary is preliminary and will be expanded as a result of future, detailed geologic studies. Additional information will be presented in the RAP.

Physlographic Setting

Crescent Junction is located approximately 19 miles east of the town of Green River, Utah, and approximately 30 miles north of Moab, Utah (Figure 1). The physiographic location of the Crescent Junction disposal site is on a broad, nearly level, plain at the base of the Book Cliffs. The elevation of Crescent Flat ranges from approximately 4,900 feet above mean sea level (ft amsl) at the southwest corner of the withdrawn area to approximately 5,120, ft amsl at the northeast corner of the withdrawn area. Crescent Flat is bounded to the north by the steep slopes of the Book Cliffs whose elevation rises to approximately 5,900 ft amsl.

General Geology

The Crescent Junction disposal site is on the Crescent Junction 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle in Section 27, T21 S, R9E, approximately 1 mile north-northeast of Crescent Junction, Utah. Geologic maps for the area include the Salt Valley area geologic map (Woodward-Clyde Consultants 1984) at a scale of 1:62,500, and the Moab and eastern part of the San Rafael Desert 30' x 60' quadrangles at a scale of 1:100,000 (Doelling 2001 and 2002). Larger scale 1:24,000 geologic maps are available for 7.5-minute quadrangles Hatch Mesa (Chitwood 1994) and Valley City (Doelling 1997), west and south, respectively, of the Crescent Junction quadrangle.

Figure 1. Site Location map for the Crescent Junction Site

Stratigraphic Setting

A general geologic map of the Crescent Junction site is presented in Figure 2. Bedrock exposed in several places at the Crescent Junction site is the Mancos Shale of Late Cretaceous age. Most of the Mancos Shale was deposited in an open marine environment of the Late Cretaceous western interior seaway. The upper part of the Mancos Shale underlies the site and is approximately 3,000 ft thick in this area. Approximately 1,000 ft of the upper part of the formation have been removed by erosion. Mancos Shale exposed in the site area is best described as a thickly bedded, calcareous mudstone
(Chitwood 1994), with thinly-bedded siltstone, fine-grained sandstone, and bentonite interbeds widely spaced within the mudstone. The Ferron Sandstone Member of the Mancos Shale is approximately 60 ft thick and occurs in the lower 300 to 350 ft of the Mancos Shale. This member contains two sandstone beds with fine- to medium-gained sand. Below the Ferron Sandstone Member is the lowermost member of the Mancos Shale, the Tununk Shale Member.

The Dakota Sandstone of Early Cretaceous age underlies the Mancos Shale and consists of sandstone, conglomeratic sandstone, and shale. This formation is less than 100 ft thick in the site area and is likely the shallowest sandstone and conglomeratic sandstone beds of the Cedar Mountain Formation. Ground water in the Dakota Sandstone and Cedar Mountain Formation may be under slight artesian head from recharge to the north along the north edge of the Uinta Basin.

Exposures of the Mancos Shale bedrock are covered over much of the site by alluvial mud of Quaternary age (Doelling 2001). This unconsolidated gray material, less than 20 ft thick, fills swales in the Mancos Shale and consists of silt, clay, sand, and minor fragments of sandstone. Along the west side of the site area, Quaternary stream alluvium up to 20 ft thick from Crescent Wash covers Mancos Shale (Doelling 2001). This material consists of sand, silt, clay, pebbles, and sparse cobbles derived from the Book Cliffs, some 10 miles to the north. \cup

Figure 2. Geologic Map of the Crescent Junction Site (Modified after Doelling 2001 and 2002)

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Structural Setting

The Crescent Junction disposal site is located in the southern edge of the Uinta Basin and overlies the northwestern part of the ancestral Paradox Basin (in the Paradox fold and fault belt). The Book Cliffs, less than 1 mile north of the site, are the erosional escarpment on the south flank of the Uinta Basin. Mancos Shale bedrock at the site dips gently (less than 10 degrees) to the north-northeast toward the axis of the subtle, northwest-trending Whipsaw Flat Syncline. Northwest-striking normal faults defining a graben of the northwest extension of the Salt Valley salt-cored anticline are approximately 1 to 2 miles to the southwest of the site. These faults are not exposed at the surface, but reportedly have as much as 1,000 ft of displacement (Fisher 1936) as determined by oil test wells drilled in the area in the 1920s and 1930s.

A northeast-striking normal fault extends into the southwest quarter of Section 27 in the site area. This fault was mapped in 1924 as part of oil exploration in the Crescent area (Harrison 1927, Figure 9). Fisher (1936) described the fault as a "minor dip fault with 100 ft of downthrow on the south". It is unlikely that this fault has a surface expression-it is not shown on geologic maps by Woodward-Clyde Consultants (1984) or Doelling (2001). Fisher (1936) noted that an oil test well (McCarthy No. 1) was being drilled in the NW 1/4 of Section 34 by Western States Development Company. Drilling had started in December 1924 and after several shut downs, the well was at a depth of 2,200 ft in March 1930. Later maps and references (Dane 1935 and Baker and others 1954) refer to this well as being drilled by the Crescent Oil Syndicate and show its location in the extreme southwest corner of Section 27. A possible log of this well was found on the Utah State Water Resources Well-Log Search webpage; a follow-on telephone conversation with the Oil and Gas Division revealed that this well is given the API reference No. 4301911525. The mapping of the minor fault seems to predate the drilling of the Crescent Oil Syndicate (McCarthy No. 1) well; therefore, it is unclear what subsurface evidence was used to justify the existence of the fault. Surface field work and an additional search for well data in the area will be undertaken to confirm or deny the existence of the fault. No other lineaments or geologic structures were noted by Friedman and Simpson (1980) in the site area during mapping of the northern Paradox Basin.

Resource Development

No significant oil and gas resources are known in the Cretaceous Rocks in the site area. The Crescent Oil Syndicate well described above encountered a natural gas pocket that "blew rocks over the top of the mast"; however, this appears to have been a shallow, isolated show. The nearest known petroleum accumulation is in the Morrison Formation of Jurassic age in the small and abandoned Crescent Junction field approximately 3 miles south-southwest of the site in the extension of the Salt Valley structure. Exploratory drilling for natural gas was completed recently at one location (MSC 26-1) just south of the withdrawn area ((API No. 43-019-31407-00-00)

(http://utstnrogmsql3.state.ut.us/UtahRBDMSWeb/well_data_lookup.cfm)). Data concerning the targeted gas horizons and the actual results of this exploration are not currently available.

Potash resources are known in the Paradox Formation of Pennsylvanian age in the northwest extension of the Salt Valley structure approximately 3 miles south of the site. The site area, however, is northeast of the Salt Valley salt-cored anticline and thick saline deposits are not present.

Uranium and vanadium deposits are known in scattered locations in the region in the Morrison Formation of Jurassic age and the Chinle Formation of Triassic age. At the site, these formations are 3,000 to 4,000 ft below the surface, making exploration for such deposits very uneconomical. Copper and silver mineralization also is known to occur in a few locations in the region in fault-related deposits in the Morrison Formation (Woodward-Clyde Consultants 1984). Exploration for such deposits in the site area also would be uneconomical because of their great depth. Coal resources occur in the Book Cliffs several miles north of the site, but they are in stratigraphically younger rocks (Mesaverde Group of Late Cretaceous age) than are present at the site.

Black shales, such as the Mancos Shale, are naturally enriched to above background concentrations in metals such as uranium, copper, silver, vanadium, mercury, arsenic, and gold. These metals likely originated in volcanic ash material (since altered to bentonite) that was deposited during deposition of the Mancos Shale. In a study by Marlatt (1991), sampling of Mancos Shale generally in the area between Salt Valley and the Book Cliffs found that gold content ranged from 30 to 100 parts per billion (ppb). These values are about ten times the background levels, but are much too low for economic extraction.

No sand and gravel deposits are present in the site area. Potential deposits of such material are present just south of the site in Section 34 and west of Crescent Wash approximately 0.5 mile west of the site (McDonald 1999). This material occurs as pediment-mantle deposits that cover Mancos Shale bedrock surfaces.

Geologic Hazards

Swelling clay (montmorillonite) in the Mancos Shale underlying the site area creates a potential geologic hazard (Mulvey 1992). Change in water content will cause shrinking and swelling leading to subsidence or heave of concrete slab structures, as evidenced by the constant maintenance required for Interstate Highway 70 crossing Mancos Shale just south of the site.

The site area has a moderate to high radon-hazard potential for occurrence of indoor radon based on the geologic factors of uranium concentration, soil permeability, and ground water depth (Black 1993). The moderate to high rating is created by the relatively high concentration of uranium in the Mancos Shale, the relatively high soil permeability caused by shrinking and swelling of the Mancos Shale-derived soil, and the relatively deep groundwater depths (shallow ground water retards radon migration).

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Based on preliminary evaluation of the results of the literature research effort, the Crescent Junction site appears to be suitable for disposal of the Moab uranium mill tailings and contaminated material. Potential geologic hazards appear to be limited to the presence of swelling clays. Although numerous geologic faults occur in the area, none appear to have a surface expression, suggesting any significant offset of the faults occurred prior to Quaternary deposition. Also, use of the area as a disposal site will not impede any potential mineral development. Additional information will be collected and reported in the RAP.

Computer Source:

Not applicable.

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Baker, A.A., Dane, C.H., and McKnight, E.T., 1954. Preliminary Map Showing Geologic Structure of Parts of Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah: U.S. Geological Survey Oil and Gas Investigations Map OM-169, scale 1:125,000.

Black, B.D., 1993. The Radon-Hazard-Potential Map of Utah: Utah Geological Survey Map 149, 12 p., scale 1:1,000,000.

Chitwood, J.P., 1994. Provisional Geologic Map of the Hatch Mesa Quadrangle, Grand County, Utah: Utah Geological Survey Map 152, 16 p., scale 1:24,000.

Dane, C.H., 1935. Geology of the Salt Valley Anticline and Adjacent Areas, Grand County, Utah: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 863, 184 p., scale 1:62,500.

Doelling, H.H., 1997. Interim Geologic Map of the Valley City Quadrangle, Grand County, Utah: Utah Geological Survey Open-File Report 351, 55 p., scale 1:24,000.

Doelling, H.H., 2001. Geologic Map of the Moab and Eastern Part of the San Rafael Desert 30'x60' Quadrangles, Grand and Emery Counties, Utah, and Mesa County, Colorado: Utah Geological Survey Map 180, scale 1:100,000.

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Harrison, T.S., 1927. Colorado-Utah Salt Domes: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, vol.11, no.2, p. 111-133.

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McDonald, G.N., 1999. Known and Potential Sand, Gravel, and Crushed Stone Resources in Grand County, Utah: Utah Geological Survey Open-File Report 369, 21 p.

Mulvey, W.E., 1992. Soil and Rock Causing Engineering Geologic Problems in Utah: Utah Geological Survey Special Study 80, 23 p., scale 1:500,000.

Woodward-Clyde Consultants, 1984. Geologic Characterization Report for the Paradox Basin Study Region, Utah Study Areas, Volume VI, Salt Valley: Walnut Creek, California, unpublished Consultant's Report for Battelle Memorial Institute, Office of Nuclear Waste Isolation, ONWI-290, 190 p., scale 1:62,500.

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Problem Statement:

Preliminary site selection performed jointly by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Contractor has identified a 2,300 acre withdrawal area in the Crescent Flat area just northeast of Crescent Junction, Utah, as a possible site for a final disposal cell for the Moab uranium mill tailings. The proposed disposal cell would cover approximately 300 acres. Based on the preliminary site-selection process, the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site is being evaluated from several technical aspects, including geomorphic, geologic, hydrologic, seismic, geochemical, and geotechnical. The objective of this calculation set is to discuss the surface and bedrock geology of the site and provide the geologic map, cross sections, and bedrock contour map that were generated during the investigation.

This calculation will be incorporated into Attachment 2 (Geology) of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Site, and summarized in the appropriate sections of the Remedial Action Selection (RAS) report for the Moab site.

Method of Solution:

Surface geologic features were identified by aerial photography and field observation mapping. A geologic map of the site area (Plate 1) was prepared that shows these features. Subsurface features of the Quaternary material and bedrock were identified from lithologic logging at test pits and from core retrieved from coreholes and geotechnical boreholes (RAP, Attachment 5). Cross sections across the site area (Plate 2) were prepared from the borehole lithologic logs that show bedrock features. A bedrock (top of weathered Mancos Shale) contour map for the site area (Plate 3) was prepared from the borehole lithologic logs and mapped surface outcrops. Review of geologic literature for the region provided the stratigraphic framework for the surface and subsurface features identified in the site area.

Assumptions:

Not applicable

Calculation:

Not applicable - see discussion of information in next section.

Discussion:

1.0 Maps of Site Area

A geologic map (Plate 1) and bedrock contour map (Plate 3) were prepared for the Crescent Junction site area, which covers about 2 square miles (mi). For this calculation, the site area is synonymous with the (geologically) mapped area.

1.1 Geologic Map

The geologic map of the site area was prepared during field work in September and October 2005. The approximately 2 square mi mapped area includes the proposed disposal cell footprint and the larger area covered by characterization boreholes (coreholes and geotechnical boreholes) and test pits. Mapping was done on a base map with a 2-foot topographic contour interval at a scale of 1:4,800 (1 inch = 400 feet [ft]). Contacts of the few and scattered bedrock outcrops of Mancos Shale of Late Cretaceous age in the area are shown on the map. At these bedrock outcrops, a Brunton compass was used to measure strike and dip of bedding and strike of vertical joints in the few places these features could be observed. Contacts between several types of unconsolidated surficial material of Quaternary age are shown on the map; these contacts are subtle and gradational and are not as evident or as sharp as the contacts between bedrock units. Descriptions of the mapped units of Quaternary age and the mapped units in the Mancos Shale are in the following subsections. Also shown on the geologic map are lines for five cross sections (Plate 2) connecting the coreholes and geotechnical boreholes included in each section.

1.2 Bedrock Contour Map

l A contour map of the top of bedrock topography is shown in Plate 3 at the same scale as the geologic map. The bedrock topography shows two subtle ridges that tend north-northwest. One ridge extends through the west part of the proposed disposal cell and one is through the east-central part. Both bedrock ridges coincide with subtle surface ridges in the proposed disposal cell area. In addition, the east-central bedrock ridge appears to be a southward continuation of the surface ridge north of the 3 ponds area. Local relief of as much as 20 ft occurs on the bedrock surface, as shown in the east end of the mapped area where bedrock in test pit 0156 is 20 ft lower than exposed bedrock on a nearby ridge to the southwest. Similar occurrences of high local bedrock relief are likely present in the proposed disposal cell area. These occurrences would be evident with closer spaced boreholes with depth to bedrock data.

2.0 Surficial Geology - Quaternary Material

Unconsolidated Quaternary material covers approximately 98 percent of the mapped area. This material covers Mancos Shale bedrock and reaches a thickness of nearly 25 ft. Five types of Quaternary material were mapped - the most significant from areal and volume perspectives are alluvial-mud (mixed silt and clay) deposits. Material along active sheet wash flow paths and litter from the Book Cliffs that mantles the alluvial mud are two other mapped units that are related to the alluvial mud. The two other Quaternary units mapped are sandy alluvium and pediment-mantling litter. Both of these are in the southwest and west parts of the mapped area and represent alluvial deposits from the Crescent Wash drainage system, which has transported sandy material southward from the Book and Roan Cliffs.

2.1 Alluvial-Mud Deposits

Gray mud, silt, and clay cover most of the surface of the site area at distances of more than 0.5 mi south of the base of the Book Cliffs. This material is mostly of alluvial origin, derived from sheet wash erosion from the lower slopes of the Book Cliffs where Mancos Shale is exposed. Some of the material is residual and forms from weathering of muddy outcrops of Mancos Shale. Alluvial-mud deposits covering Mancos Shale are mapped by Doelling (2001) who described these deposits in the site area and to the south in the Valley City quadrangle (Doelling 1997).

Surface expression of the alluvial mud is mostly in the form of silt to clayey silt and was described in the field as ML, in the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS). This fine-grained material is typically light brownish gray (10YR 6/2), highly calcareous, and represents successive sheet wash deposits. Laboratory test results of this material sampled from geotechnical boreholes indicates a high clay (CL in the USCS) content.

Below the surface, most of the alluvial mud is fine grained, but discontinuous layers of coarser grained material of eolian and channel-fill origin are also present around the site area. Material of eolian origin was found in several boreholes and test pits (see lithologic logs of test pits 0151 and 0153 in RAP, Attachment 5). Eolian material is typically sandy silt (ML in the USCS), light brown (7.5YR 6/4), 1 to 3 ft thick, and at depths of 6 to 12 ft. The brown eolian material exposed in test pit 0151 is shown in Figure 1. The sporadic occurrence of this material, not in a continuous layer, indicates it was removed by erosion and reworked after its deposition - probably in a dry period during mid-Holocene time.

Coarser grained, sand to gravel and small boulder-sized, material occurs also in sporadic, discontinuous layers and lenses in the alluvium. Several of the coreholes and geotechnical boreholes around the site area penetrated gravelly sand (SW in the USCS) layers that contained shale and sandstone fragments. Some of this deeper material has been calcareously cemented. The gravelly sand material represents alluvial detritus deposited in small channels similar to the litter deposits on the surface in the north part of the site area closer to the base of the Book Cliffs. Material up to small boulder in size also is present in a few locations - notably exposed in test pit 0156. Here, small boulders up to 2 ft in diameter are present that fill an alluvial channel cut into Mancos Shale bedrock at a depth of approximately 20 ft. Mancos Shale is exposed in the bottom of test pit 0156 in Figure 2. Sandstone bedrock is exposed at the surface (Plate 1) only about 200 ft to the southwest of this coarse bouldery material. This relief of at least 20 ft on the bedrock surface in a short distance and the coarse bouldery deposits indicates the presence of a high-energy paleochannel where coarse material was transported southward from the ancestral Book Cliffs (Plate 2, cross section E-E', and Plate 3). No indication of ground water was found in this

paleochannel. Other paleochannels similar to this one exposed at test pit 0156 likely occur westward across the site area.

Figure 1. View of brown eolian material exposed at a depth of 7 ft in test pit 0151.

Figure 2. Test pit 0156-Alluvial-mud deposits are approximately 20 ft thick, and Mancos Shale is at bottom of pit. White 5-gallon buckets and shovel provide scale.

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Alluvial mud in the site area has been deposited over Mancos Shale bedrock in a long-term process of successive sheet wash episodes during much of Quaternary time. The thickest accumulation of alluvial mud is in subtle bedrock lows between several north-northwest trending bedrock ridges that cross the site area (Plate 3). The thickest alluvial mud accumulations of about 23 ft were found in geotechnical boreholes 0014 and 0025, just north of the west part of the proposed disposal cell. A thick accumulation is also present along the east edge of the proposed disposal cell where 22 ft of alluvial mud was found in coreholes 0208 and 0209. The average thickness of alluvial mud at the proposed disposal cell is approximately 10 to 12 ft. Alluvial mud thickness overlying the two bedrock ridges in the west and eastcentral parts of the proposed disposal cell is less than 10 ft. Between these ridges, the thickness is from 10 to 20 ft, and along the east side of the eastern ridge, the thickness is from 10 to 22 ft.

2.2 Material Along Active Sheet Wash Flow Paths

Several paths along which the sheet wash process is presently active are shown on the geologic map (Plate 1). These paths are visible in the high-altitude vertical aerial photos by their drab-gray color and are shown in Plate 1 of the Photogeologic Interpretation calculation set. Vegetation is generally absent from the paths, and recently-deposited gray mud covers most of the surface. Some small fragments of sandstone transported from the flanks and base of the Book Cliffs may be scattered on the surface of the paths.

The active sheet wash paths are generally in the north part of the site area within about 0.5 mi of the base of the Book Cliffs. The north ends of these paths usually merge into gullies that drain away from the base of the Book Cliffs (Plate 1). Only two paths enter or cross the proposed disposal cell area. Of these, the most prominent is the north-northwest trending path that crosses the east part of the proposed cell area. This path extends southward from the drainage just west of the three ponds area (Plate 1 and Figure 3). Material transported down this drainage is deposited to the south along the path as the gradient decreases across the proposed cell area. The path extends south-southeastward to the Union Pacific Railroad.

Figure 3. View south from top of Book Cliffs toward sheet wash path extending south-southeast from the three ponds across the eastern quarter of the proposed disposal cell area.

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Flows along the sheet wash paths are infrequent, but represents the main process by which alluvial mud has been slowly deposited over bedrock at the site area. One episode of active sheet wash flow was witnessed in late September 2005 during site characterization drilling. Flows occurred in several sheet wash paths (Figure 4) immediately following a high-intensity rain and hail event during which at least 0.5 inch of precipitation fell in less than one-half hour. It is estimated that events of this magnitude typically occur once per year or less.

Figure 4. View east of active sheet wash flowing over site access road just north of geotechnical borehole 0025, September 21, 2005.

2.3 Litter from Book Cliffs that Mantles Alluvial Mud and Mancos Shale

Mancos Shale and alluvial mud are increasingly covered from south to north across the mapped area by what is referred to as litter that is composed mainly of sandstone fragments ranging from one inch to as much as 3 ft in diameter. North of the mapped area and closer to the base of the Book Cliffs, sandstone boulders are as large as several tens of ft in diameter. The smaller sandstone fragments in the mapped area are derived from the top of the Book Cliffs and consist of tan, friable, subrounded fragments and chunks of fine-grained sandstone of the Blackhawk Formation and slabs of rusty-colored, brittle, wellthe litter are also characterized by dark cryptogamic soil that supports scattered prickly pear cactus.

Northward from the proposed disposal cell to the base of the Book Cliffs (nearer to the source of the sandstone), the sandstone litter covers most of the surface. Southward through the proposed disposal cell, the litter is present only in narrow strips that generally correspond to subtle, north-northwest trending
ridges (Plate 1). The litter-covered low ridges also correspond, in most places in the proposed disposal
cell represents residual sandstone material that was deposited along the base of the Book Cliffs as rock falls during erosion of the supporting Mancos Shale that has not yet been eroded away or has not been covered by sheet wash material during the accumulation of the alluvial-mud deposits.

2.4 Sandy Alluvium

Alluvium from the Crescent Wash drainage system occurs in low ridges along the southwest edge of the mapped area. This material consists mainly of silty sand, and the sand is mostly fine- to very fine-grained. The sandy character of this alluvium is different from the Mancos Shale-derived alluvial mud and reflects the dominantly sandstone lithology present in the Book and Roan Cliffs area that the Crescent Wash system drains. A few sandstone chunks (rarely as large as boulders) and chert pebbles occur in the alluvium; these are representative of the Mesaverde Group sandstones and early Tertiary sandstones with chert that are present in the Crescent Wash drainage. The sandy alluvial ridges also support more vegetation than the alluvial mud flats.

Evidence of ancestral courses of Crescent Wash is expressed in the sandy alluvium as arcuate topographic lows in the west-central edge of Section 27 (Plate 1). These former stream courses were as much as 1,000 ft east of the present wash. Sandy alluvium is not present immediately east of the large incised meander of Crescent Wash near the northwest corner of Section 27. This indicates that no ancestral Crescent Wash has been present east of the present wash course at the large meander.

2.5 Pediment-Mantling Litter

Several small areas along the west and southwest edges of the mapped area are covered by a distinctive, resistant, gravelly material that veneers alluvial mud, sandy alluvium, or Mancos Shale outcrops. Pebbles in this gravelly material consist of brown sandstone and resistant white quartzite and distinctive, exotic, black chert (up to 2 inches in diameter). The pebbles are loose and scattered and "litter" the surface.

These deposits represent the erosion-resistant lag material from former pediment-mantling deposits laid down by the ancestral Crescent Wash drainage system. The pediment-mantling deposits are no longer preserved in place in the mapped area. These deposits are preserved in place about 0.5 mi west of the mapped area where they cap a low mesa about 100 ft above Crescent Wash and are mapped as pediment-mantle deposits by Doelling (2001). These in-place deposits contain the same type of resistant pebbles found as lag (or litter) in the mapped area. The distinctive, exotic, black chert and vari-colored quartzite pebbles in the pediment-mantle deposits are a constituent of a conglomerate in the Dark Canyon Sequence of the Wasatch Formation of early Paleocene age that crops out in the Roan Cliffs about 6 to 8 mi north up the Crescent Wash drainage (Franczyk and others 1990). The occurrence of this pediment-mantling deposit whose matrix contains Stage II carbonate development about 100 ft above present drainages probably correlates to similar cemented deposits on Mancos Shale pediments mapped by Willis (1994) in the Harley Dome area about 35 mi to the east-northeast. Those deposits were estimated by Willis (1994) to be 100,000 to 200,000 years old based on their height (50-110 ft) above present drainages and their carbonate development (Stage 11).

At the southwest end of the mapped area, several areas of pediment-mantling litter lie on the sides of a low hill where weathered Mancos Shale is poorly exposed (Plate 1). This hill is likely an erosional remnant of a Mancos Shale pediment surface east of the present Crescent Wash that was capped by the pediment-mantle deposits about 100,000 to 200,000 years ago (late to middle Pleistocene age) emplaced by the ancestral Crescent Wash system. The other scattered small deposits of pediment-mantling litter (mainly in the area near corehole 0202) are evidence of the former extent of this pediment.

3.0 Bedrock Geology - Cretaceous Mancos Shale

The mapped site area is underlain by the Mancos Shale of Late Cretaceous age that dips gently northward. The shale forms a broad, east-trending belt immediately south of the Book Cliffs. Topographically, the shale'forms the lower or buttressing part of the Book Cliffs and the wide expanse of lowlands, or "flats", extending several miles to the south (Fisher and others 1960).

Total thickness of the Mancos Shale, which generally represents the open-marine mudstones deposited in the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway, is approximately 3,500 ft if measured from the top of the Book Cliffs just north of the site area. Most of the Mancos is a monotonously uniform, drab or bluish gray shale; however, in the site area, which is in the upper third of the formation, an anomalously sandy interval is present that represents some nearshore deposition. This sandy interval was earlier recognized

as the "Mancos B" (zone or horizon) because of its natural gas-producing characteristics on the Douglas Creek arch near the Utah-Colorado border (Kellogg 1977). More recent stratigraphic studies have identified the nearshore facies of this sandy interval and formalized this unit and renamed it the Prairie Canyon Member (Cole and others 1997). Some facies of the Prairie Canyon Member, as identified by Hampson and others (1999) as fluvial-dominated delta front deposits, occur in the north part of the mapped area. These delta-front deposits, therefore, are mapped as representing the Prairie Canyon Member in the site area. From the sandy (generally very fine grained) nature of this member as exposed in a few outcrops, seen in several coreholes and test pits, and expressed as a marked reduction in the gamma ray geophysical log response from coreholes, the thickness of the Prairie Canyon Member in the mapped area is approximately 150 to 200 ft. Up to approximately 100 ft of the lower part of the Prairie Canyon Member is present along the north edge of the proposed disposal cell.

Underlying and overlying the sandy interval of the Prairie Canyon is the Blue Gate Member of the Mancos Shale. The Blue Gate consists mainly of open-marine mudstone and shale, with a few thin siltstone layers. In the site area, the Blue Gate is divided into lower and upper parts to accommodate the Prairie Canyon Member. Outcrops of both lower and upper parts of the Blue Gate are rare - only one of each was found in the mapped area (Plate 1). A thickness of approximately 2,000 ft of lower Blue Gate is present in the site area. Below the Blue Gate are the lowermost members of the Mancos Shale, the Ferron Sandstone underlain by the Tununk Shale, that combine for an approximate 300 to 400 ft thickness. It is therefore estimated that approximately 2,400 ft of Mancos Shale underlies the center of the proposed disposal cell; this includes all of the lower Blue Gate, the Ferron Sandstone, and the Tununk Shale.

The upper Blue Gate, above the Prairie Canyon, is approximately 700 to 800 ft thick. It is overlain by the Blackhawk Formation, the lowermost unit of the Mesaverde Group, that forms the sandstone crest of the Book Cliffs immediately north of the site area.

A generalized stratigraphic section of the mapped site area is shown in Figure 5. Characteristics of each member of Mancos Shale as seen in outcrops and in borehole core are discussed in the following subsections, in chronologic order from oldest to youngest. Detailed lithologic descriptions of bedrock from the ten deep (300 ft) coreholes are in Attachment 5 of the RAP. Five cross sections (Plate 2) across the site show the lithologic position of the Prairie Canyon Member in the subsurface. The bedrock contour map (Plate 3) shows subtle ridges and other variations in the bedrock topography.

3.1 Lower Blue Gate Member

The lower part of the Blue Gate Member does not crop out on or immediately around the proposed disposal cell; however, the unit is present in the subsurface and all of the ten coreholes penetrated part of the unit. The unit crops out in poor exposures in one place in the southwest edge of the mapped area on a low hill that is an eroded remnant of a pediment surface (Plate 1). Here, the exposures are mainly gray shale and minor, thin, lenticular beds of light gray to brown-orange (limonitic) siltstone that contains small tracks and other trace fossils.

Bedrock penetrated by four of the coreholes (0202, 0205, 0207, and 0209) consisted of the lower Blue Gate. Also, one packer test hole (0212) was cored solely in the lower Blue Gate, and the bottom of test pit 0154 was in the lower Blue Gate. The other coreholes passed through part of the Prairie Canyon Member before reaching total depth in the lower Blue Gate.

The lower Blue Gate penetrated by the coreholes is mostly medium gray (N5), calcareous, silty claystone, and is fissile in some places. Several thin zones occur that have a small percentage (less than 20%) of bioturbated bedding of siltstone or very fine grained sandstone that is lighter colored, very light gray (N8). Fine, black carbonaceous material and framboidal pyrite (plated on fossils in places) occur in trace amounts. Large fossils that were found in the core consist mainly of coiled and flattened cephalopods and pelecypods. Curious dense masses up to 2 inches in diameter of white, highly calcareous (porcelaneousappearing) material occur rarely in the deeper part of the lower Blue Gate (more than 150 ft below the upper contact). Small beads (up to 0.05 inch diameter) of amber or resin occur in trace amounts in

various depths in most coreholes into the lower Blue Gate. Below a depth of 100 ft into this bedrock, no natural fractures were noted and no evidence was seen of water movement (interior of broken core was dry).

The top of the lower Blue Gate occurs generally in the space of several ft where bioturbated bedding and associated very fine-grained sandstone increases to about 30 percent. This change is best seen in the geophysical logs as a marked reduction in gamma ray response. In the five coreholes that were geophysically logged, the depth of the contact of the lower Blue Gate and Prairie Canyon is picked as follows: 0203- 117 ft. 0204-52 ft. 0206- 107 ft, 0208- 117 ft, and 0210- 139 ft. In corehole 0201, which was not geophysically logged, the contact is placed where the amount of bioturbation increases very rapidly at approximately 157 ft. The Prairie Canyon – top of lower Blue Gate contact is shown in the north-south cross sections A-A', B-B', and C-C', and more along strike in the west-east cross section D-D' (Plate 2).

3.2 Prairie Canyon Member

Several outcrops of very fine-grained sandstone of the Prairie Canyon Member occur in the proposed disposal cell area (Plate 1). Additional small outcrop areas of sandstone occur east and north of the proposed disposal cell. A band of scattered small outcrops of dolomitic siltstone concretions also occurs across the north part of the site area marking the top of the Prairie Canyon Member. Three lithologic facies were selected for mapping (Plate 1) to show the variation of this member in the site area. The lower and thickest unit is a tan, burrowed sandstone. A thin, distinctive rusty brown, burrowed sandstone unit occurs just below the uppermost dolomitic siltstone concretions. A band of discontinuous, large, resistant, dolomitic siltstone concretions is present approximately 50 ft below the top band of concretions. Each of these facies is described in the following subsections, and they are similar in many characteristics to those described by Hampson and others (1999) in this part of the outcrop belt of the Prairie Canyon.

3.2.1 Tan, burrowed sandstone

This facies is exposed in the proposed disposal cell area on a subtle, north-trending ridge approximately along the section line between Sections 26 and 27 (Plate 1). Here, the light gray to tan sandstone is fine to very fine grained, calcareous, burrowed, and is exposed in lenticular to slabby beds about 1 inch thick.

This fine- to very fine-grained, burrowed sandstone subcrops under approximately the northern 60 percent of the proposed disposal cell area. This estimated subcrop of the base of the Prairie Canyon Member shown in Plate 1 is based on scattered outcrops of the tan and gray sandstone in the proposed disposal cell area and along strike just to the east in a low ridge near test pit 0156. Also, several geotechnical boreholes (0085 and 0087) noted the presence of sandstone bedrock at their total depths.

North of the proposed disposal cell and stratigraphically higher, the sandstone crops out in scattered locations – the largest is an area over 500 ft long along the west side of a low ridge extending southsoutheast from the area of the 3 ponds (Plate 1). In this outcrop area, the slabby sandstone is tan, fine grained, calcareous, slightly friable, bioturbated, with abundant sole marks and burrows. Other outcrops of this sandstone occur along strike to the west (south of corehole 0201) and east (east and north of corehole 0210). These scattered northern outcrops occur mainly on the south side of a band of low mounds formed (capped) by resistant, large, dolomitic siltstone concretions.

Core from the several holes through the Prairie Canyon Member show that most of the rock is medium gray (N5) silty claystone to clayey siltstone, and usually only 10 to 30% of the rock is very light gray (N8), very fine-grained sandstone. The sandstone is bioturbated, wavy bedded, and contains traces of framboidal pyrite, fine carbonaceous (plant fragment?) material, and pelecypod and cephalopod imprints. The percentage of sandstone (up to 30%) shown in the core is more of a true account of the stratigraphy of this member, rather than reliance on the surface outcrops, which tend to be of the more resistant sandstone. Coreholes in the mapped area that penetrated part of the Prairie Canyon Member sandstones are 0201 (penetrated nearly all of the Prairie Canyon Member), 0204, 0206, 0208, and 0210. Lithologic logs from coreholes 0201, 0208, and 0210 contain the most detailed description of the lithology. Below a

depth of about 80 ft into this bedrock, no natural fractures were noted and no evidence was seen of water movement (interior of broken core was dry).

3.2.2 Rusty brown, burrowed **sandstone**

This thin, distinctive facies crops out in scattered locations along an east-trending belt across the north part of the mapped area (Plate 1). The unit is only about 3 ft thick and typically occurs just below the large dolomitic siltstone concretions that form the northernmost line of low mounds. It consists of dense, resistant, rusty brown, very fine- to fine-grained sandstone that contains large burrows up to 1.5 inches in diameter, and abundant trace fossils and casts. This facies contains the most intense and diverse bioturbation. The unit was not seen in all of the northernmost dolomitic siltstone concretion mounds, possibly because of cover or poor outcrops.

3.2.3 Dolomitic siltstone concretion

This facies, the best exposed in the mapped area, occurs in two east-trending bands of low, scattered mounds up to 15 ft high in the north part of the mapped area just north of the proposed disposal cell. Each mound is capped by one or more large concretions of dolomitic siltstone. The lower band, represented by several widely scattered mounds, is stratigraphically about 50 ft below the upper band. The dolomitic concretion-capped mound just west of corehole 0210 represents this lower band (Plate 1).

The upper band contains more numerous mounds in the mapped area and consists of 10 to 15 scattered mounds. The top of these mounds represents the top of the Prairie Canyon Member in the mapped area, as shown in Plate 1. This contact of the top of the Prairie Canyon and base of the upper Blue Gate Member marks a delta-front abandonment and marine-flooding surface followed by deposition of marine shales of the upper Blue Gate (Cole and others 1997).

Concretions are hard, dense, brittle, up to 5 ft thick, and are composed of dolomitic siltstone; some contain calcite crystals and masses. Dolomitic siltstone on fresh surfaces is medium gray (N5) and weathered surfaces are grayish orange (1OYR 7/4). Bedding is wavy, flaser (flame or streak)-shaped, and interrupted in places by burrowing. The concretion-capped mounds (Figure 6) vary in diameter from 20 or 30 ft to the large mound about 200 ft in exposed diameter just southwest of corehole 0201. The top of the resistant concretion mounds forms a north-dipping cuesta-like surface where the dip of the Mancos Shale could be measured in several places (Plate 1) at approximately 5 to 6 degrees. Vertical joints, some coated with limonite, form in the brittle dolomitic siltstone. These joints were measured in several locations (Plate 1). The principal joint direction is approximately N10E and subsidiary directions are N50W and N85W.

3.3 **Upper Blue Gate Member**

The only outcrop of the upper part of the Blue Gate Member in the mapped area is north of the 3 ponds area along a steep, west-facing slope above a small drainage. Cropping out on the slope is soft, gray brown, silty shale and some interbeds of slabby, thin, tan brown, very fine-grained, burrowed sandstone. Sandstone litter and sheet wash cover most outcrops north of the mounds, which mark the top of the Prairie Canyon Member, until the steep slopes of the Upper Blue Gate Member are reached at the base of the Book Cliffs.

3.4 **Structural Features and Weathered Bedrock**

No faults or evidence of faults (slickensides on fracture surfaces) were found in the deep coreholes. Lithologic logs, geophysical logs, and surface outcrops verify that the dip of Mancos Shale bedrock in most of the mapped area is approximately 5 to 6 degrees to the north. This is shown in cross sections B-B' and C-C' (Plate 2). Evidence that the northward dip may be slightly less in the western part of the mapped area is from the slightly wider subcrop belt of the Prairie Canyon Member shown in Plate 1 and the cross section A-A' (Plate 2).

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Figure 6. View northeast of a low mound formed by the uppermost band of dolomitic siltstone concretions at the top of the Prairie Canyon Member of Mancos Shale.

Weathered bedrock characteristics were noted during lithologic logging of the deep coreholes. At depths of more than 40 to 45 ft, bedrock was usually competent without bedding plane fractures and had a fresh appearance. No natural fractures were noted in the core from depths greater than 80 to 100 ft.

Horizontal bedding plane fractures occur mainly in the top 20 to 30 ft of weathered bedrock; the numerous fractures rapidly decrease in frequency in the first 10 to 20 ft of depth (Figure 7). Typical colors of weathered and altered rock are yellowish gray (5Y 7/2), pale yellowish brown (10YR 6/2), and light olive gray (5Y 5/2). Limonitic alteration typically has a dark yellowish orange (1OYR 6/6) color.

Higher-angle, non-bedding plane, fractures are abundant in the first 20 to 30 ft of bedrock. These fractures are typically coated or filled with white crystalline gypsum (and possibly some calcite), as shown in Figure 8. These shallow fractures and, particularly, the deeper fractures may be coated (stained) with limonite, indicating movement of small amounts of ground water (Figure 9). Only a few fractures extend below a depth of 50 ft, and those do not extend much deeper. Two deeper, limonite-stained fractures occur at 68 and 73 ft depths in corehole 0203, indicating some minor ground water movement in the past.

Conclusions

Interpretation and characterization of the surficial and bedrock geology of the mapped area in and around the proposed disposal cell area found no features that would adversely affect the geologic suitability of the disposal site. The following features and characteristics of the surficial and bedrock geology of the site area favor its suitability for a disposal cell.

- Approximately 2,400 ft of Mancos Shale, represented mainly by open-marine mudstone, is present beneath the center of the proposed disposal cell.
- No evidence for faults was noted in the surface or in bedrock units.
- No evidence of saturation in the bedrock was seen; core was dry when broken open.
- Natural fractures were mostly in the top 20 to 30 ft of bedrock and below that the rock is largely competent; fractures are rare below depths of 50 ft and not noted below 80 to 100 ft depths.
- Surficial deposits have been emplaced in a stable geologic environment mainly by a slow accumulation of material transported during infrequent heavy rainfall episodes from the base and sides of the Book Cliffs along active sheet wash paths.

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Figure 7. Core from hole 0210, from 26 (left) to 36 ft (right), showing progression in depth from highly
weathered to slightly weathered bedrock.

Figure 8. Gypsum (white) filling a vertical fracture at 39.5 to 40.0 ft depth in weathered lower Bl⁷
Member bedrock at corehole 0209.

U.S. Department of Energy March 2006

Figure 9. Limonite (orange) coating high-angle fracture at about 62 ft depth in slightly weathered lower Blue Gate Member bedrock at corehole 0207.

. **Computer Source:**

Not applicable.

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U.S. Department of Energy-Grand Junction, Colorado

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Problem Statement:

Determination of the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site as the repository for the Moab uranium mill tailings material, and development of the site and regional geomorphology sections of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) require a thorough review of available literature that applies to the Crescent Junction site. The compiled list of references is presented at the end of this calculation set and relevant information is summarized below.

This calculation will be incorporated into Attachment 2 (Geology) of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site, and summarized in the appropriate sections of the Remedial Action Selection (RAS) report for the Moab site.

Method of Solution:

Literature sources were identified using a combination of published reports and maps that were developed during the Crescent Junction site-selection process, on-line (internet-based) resources, and relevant literature citations from the other UMTRCA sites.

Assumptions:

It is assumed that the literature sources are reliable and representative of the current understanding of the geomorphology of the region.

Calculation:

None required.

Discussion:

A general summary of geomorphologic conditions based on the literature research is provided in this calculation set.

Crescent Flat, the physiographic location for the Crescent Junction disposal site, is on a broad, nearly level, plain at the base of the Book Cliffs. The elevation of Crescent Flat ranges from approximately 4,900 feet above mean seal level (ft amsl) at the southwest corner of the withdrawn area to approximately 5,120 ft amsl at the northeast corner of the withdrawn area. Crescent Flat is bounded to the north by the steep slopes of the Book Cliffs whose elevation rises to approximately 5,900 ft amsl.

Drainage features across most of Crescent Flat consist of relatively subtle depressions that comprise Kendall Wash. The name Kendall Wash is a designation that appears on the 1:250,000-scale Moab topographic sheet but is absent from the later-published 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle map. For the purpose of this investigation, the name Kendall Wash will be reinstated to describe the watercourse that collects surface water from Crescent Flat. Kendall Wash has two forks across Crescent Flat: the "West Branch" and the 'East Branch", which are informal designations created specifically for this study (Figure 1). These two forks collect surface water from most of the withdrawn area. Kendall Wash enters Thompson Wash approximately 3.5 miles south of Crescent Junction. Thompson Wash and Crescent Wash converge approximately 7.1 miles south of Crescent Junction and form Tenmile Canyon, which is a tributary to the Green River. The confluence of Tenmile Canyon with the Green River is approximately 23 miles southeast of Crescent Junction. The subtle drainages observed over the surface of Crescent Flat are an indication that depositional, rather than erosional, processes are dominant over the landscape.

The western margin of the withdrawn area coincides with Crescent Wash, which is a 22 square mile drainage feature that emerges from Crescent Canyon in the Book Cliffs. Crescent Canyon heads approximately 10 miles north of Crescent Flat. Crescent Wash is an intermittent channel that forms an erosional cut that is entrenched some 15 ft below the surface of Crescent Flat. Based on the depth of the cut, the steep canyon walls and high relief within Crescent Canyon, and the size of the detritus within the

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Figure 1. Topographic Map of Crescent Junction Vicinity Showing the Locations of Surface Water Features

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channel, Crescent Wash appears capable of considerable erosion when it flows. The narrow and steep aspect of Crescent Canyon is prime location for flash floods. Crescent Wash is therefore considered a significant fluvial-geomorphic feature with regard to the proposed repository at the Crescent Junction disposal site.

The soil profile at Crescent Flat is rather poorly developed. Over much of the site, the bedrock is covered over by "alluvial mud" of Quaternary age (Doelling 2001). This unconsolidated gray material, less than 20 ft thick, fills swales in the Mancos Shale and contains rock fragments from the underlying parent material, detrital material shed from the Book Cliffs, and occasional remnants of lag gravels that formed on earlier pediment surfaces. The alluvial mud mantles the bedrock to varying degrees. Aerial photographs and field reconnaissance have shown lineaments that form where relatively resistant ledges of suspected siltstone bedrock occur in the shallow subsurface. Detrital materials within the mud are distributed somewhat randomly at the land surface over the entire breadth of Crescent Flat. Large rock fragments, primarily sandstone, are more abundant near the base of the Book Cliffs where rock falls are an important hillslope process.

The Mancos Shale is exposed along the face of the Book Cliffs. The calcareous shale beds strike approximately N60E and dip to the northwest at less than 10 degrees. The exposed shale supports little to no vegetation; consequently, the surface is vulnerable to erosional forces, such as rill and gully erosion by running water and attendant rock falls, which were described earlier. Erosion of the exposed face of the Book Cliffs forms contrasting slopes that are carved in calcareous shale and sandstone strata. The slope angles of the Book Cliffs are controlled by a combination of geologic structure and the strength of the rock mass of the bedrock material. Running water that enters Crescent Flat at the base of the Book Cliffs rapidly looses kinetic energy and signs of sheet flow and sediment deposition become more evident. As mentioned above, Crescent Flat exhibits only incipient fluvial channeling.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Based on preliminary evaluation of the results of the literature research effort, the Crescent Junction site appears to be suitable for disposal of the Moab uranium mill tailings and contaminated material.

Computer Source:

Not applicable.

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Problem Statement:

Preliminary site selection performed jointly by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Contractor has identified a 2,300 acre withdrawal area in the Crescent Flat area just northeast of Crescent Junction, Utah, as a possible site for a final disposal cell for the Moab uranium mill tailings. The proposed disposal cell would cover approximately 300 acres. Based on the preliminary site-selection process, the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site is being evaluated from several technical aspects, including geomorphic, geologic, seismic, and geotechnical. The objective of this calculation set is to identify geomorphic processes that affect the site.

This calculation will be incorporated into Attachment 2 (Geology) of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site, and summarized in the appropriate sections of the Remedial Action Selection (RAS) report for the Moab site.

Method of Solution:

Geomorphic characteristics of the withdrawn area for the Crescent Junction disposal site are described in this calculation set. Field reconnaissance of geomorphic features of the site was conducted from July 18 to 20, 2005. In addition to ground traverses across the site, a traverse across the top of the Book Cliffs was made on July 19, 2005 to view the site from the north. Low-sun angle (LSA) aerial photographs (from early-day and late-day sun angles) and high-altitude aerial photographs of the site area flown on July 8, 2005, by AeroGraphics, Inc. (2005a and 2005b), were also used to discern geomorphic features. Specific conclusions drawn from interpretation of LSA results are presented in the photogeologic interpretation calculation set. Test pits were excavated at two locations within the proposed footprint of the tailings repository. Significant site geomorphic features together with two test-pit locations are shown in Figure 1. Test pit logs are presented in Attachment 5 of the RAP.

Assumptions:

Not applicable.

Calculation:

None required.

Discussion:

The dynamic equilibrium that exists in topographically diverse areas may be explained as a balance that .exists between degradational (erosional) and aggradational (depositional) processes. The degradational processes act on or near the sources of sediment, while the aggradational processes occur at or near. sediment sinks. The landforms observed at the Crescent Flat area are discussed in terms of these two competing processes.

Degradational Processes

*** Crescent Wash**

The basin area of Crescent Wash is approximately 22 square miles. Much of the area is composed of narrow canyons and steep slopes that gain up to 1,000 feet (ft) in elevation, but more commonly, the canyons comprise several hundred feet in vertical relief. Steep slopes within the canyon create high fluvial gradients capable of transporting significant quantities and size of sediment. Boulders derived from the canyon walls have been observed up to 4 ft in diameter in Crescent Wash (Figure 2). Runoff events within Crescent Wash were not observed first-hand during this site investigation. Results of geologic mapping (Doelling 2001) have shown that the eastward lateral extent of Crescent Wash alluvial deposits is contained within the subtle ridges of Mancos Shale bedrock that exist in the southwest corner of Section 27. Test pit 0151, constructed in the north-central part of Section 27, only
showed minor fluvial channels, apparently not related to Crescent Wash. Material in the minor channel was locally derived detritus composed of shale and sandstone. Fluvial channeling was not observed in test pit 0153.

Kendall Wash Tributaries

Drainages originating at Crescent Flat coalesced into a feature that was formerly designated as Kendall Wash (1:250,000 scale Moab topographic sheet); however, this designation is not shown on the 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle maps. For this investigation, the northernmost tributaries of Kendall Wash are referred to as the "West Branch" and "East Branch". West Branch (Figure 3) drains to the southeast through the southeast quarter of Section 27. The West Branch collects surface drainage from Sections 27 and 22 and is incised up to approximately 10 ft deep at its intersection with old U.S. Highway 50. The West Branch is east of the subtle Mancos Shale ridge that *divides the West Branch from alluvial deposits of Crescent Wash. No evidence exists that the West Branch cuts into the surface of the Mancos Shale. The head-ward migration rate of the West Branch was not determined quantitatively as part of this calculation set.

The East Branch drains in a southwest direction through Sections 24 and 26, and collects surface drainage from Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26. Because its drainage area is larger than that of the West Branch, the East Branch is incised considerably deeper into Crescent Flat. North of the intersection of the East Branch with U.S. Highway 50, currently the Interstate 70 frontage road, the East Branch is incised approximately 15 ft into the surface of Crescent Wash (Figure 4).

Part of the surface water entering both the West Branch and the East Branch descends through rills and gullies along the face of the Book Cliffs and spreads out as sheet flow. Sediment deposition occurs at the base of the Book Cliffs where the water velocity is slower. Holocene to Late-Pleistocene alluvial mud that covers the Mancos Shale in Crescent Flat is probably derived from the sheet flow action. Only minor incised channels exist in the northern reaches of Crescent Flat. The absence of active fluvial down-cutting along Crescent Flat, and the Holocene to Late-Pleistocene stability of Crescent Flat are favorable attributes of the site with regard to its proposed use.

Aggradational Processes

Alluvial mud is an expression of sheet wash deposition that accumulated as a consequence of erosion of the Book Cliffs face. The rill and gully erosion on the face of the Book Cliffs demonstrates that they are a source of sediment material. Present evidence of the sheet wash process is shown in Figure 3. The discolored areas of Crescent Flat with drab gray soils from the face of the Book Cliffs are slightly braided with the long axis oriented parallel to the flow direction. The most prominent sheet wash feature trends to the south-southeast from near the three ponds between Sections 22 and 23 (Figure 5).

Bedrock Geomorphology

Low cuesta-like ridges and mounds that appear as an easterly trend lie along the northern margin of Crescent Flat. The linear feature east of the three ponds is shown in Figure 5. A ground photo of the cuesta-like feature is shown in Figure 6. The linear feature also exists west of the three ponds. More resistant, calcareous siltstone beds in the Prairie Canyon Member of the Mancos Shale form the cuestalike features.

Low hills scattered over Crescent Flat, particularly in the southwest quarter of Section 27 and the northeast corner of Section 34, are an expression of the former pediment-mantling material that capped the Mancos Shale. Figure 6 from just west of the site shows where the pediment mantling material is in place. The subtle mounds signifying the remnants of these features are scattered over Crescent Flat.

Rock-falls are another active erosional process observed at the base of the Book Cliffs. Figure 7. shows how some of the boulders attain large proportions. These rock falls occur episodically in response to the freezing action of water that seeps into cracks in the sandstone along the rim of the Book Cliffs. Although, the northward rate of advance of the escarpment along the face of the Book Cliffs was not estimated as part of this investigation, it is probably very long in comparison to the performance life of the proposed

tailings repository. Additional information will be presented in the RAP. Because of limited precipitation, these boulders will likely take many years to disaggregate.

A large erosional feature exists north of the face of the Book Cliffs in an area known as Horse Heaven. This area is in the southern half of Section 15, the northern half of Section 22, and the eastern half of Section 14 (Figure 1). Landslide material mapped in this location by Doelling (2001) is reported to be Holocene to Pleistocene. This deposit demonstrates that mass-wasting processes are common along the north-facing canyon walls where slopes are exposed for longer periods to freezing and thawing water. Southward advance of the scarp in Horse Heaven appears to have intersected the cliff band of the Book Cliffs because dislocated bedding and phreatophytic vegetation are visible along the top of the cliff face near elevation-monument 5,870 (Figure 1) and above the vehicle in Figure 2. Because the age of the landslide deposits in Horse Heaven is long in comparison to the design life of the proposed repository, the mass wasting in Horse Heaven is not likely to impact the long-term stability of the proposed disposal cell.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Land-forming processes at the Crescent Flat site include: (1) the rock falls from the top of the Book Cliffs; (2) formation of rills and gullies on the face of the Book Cliffs; (3) a veneer of alluvial mud deposited atop weathered Mancos Shale; (4) low cuesta-like ridges and mounds that appear as an easterly trend along the northern margin of Crescent Flat; (5) incised channel formation in Crescent Wash along the eastern boundary of the withdrawn area; and (6) incipient incised-channel formation in the West Branch and East Branch of Kendall Wash. These fluvial-geomorphologic features pose little risk to the proposed uranium mill tailings repository. Additional discussion will be provided in the RAP. However, water-carrying capacity of the West and East Branches of Kendall Wash will need to be considered carefully to maintain their long-term, post-construction stability.

Computer Source:

Not applicable.

Figure 1. Geomorphic Features of the Withdrawn Area of Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site

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Figure 2. View north-northeast of incised meander bend in Crescent Wash just southwest of corner of **Sections** 2. View north–northeast of incised meander bend in Crescent Wash just southwest of corner of
ions 21, 22, 27, 28. Incision is about 12 ft deep and does not contact Mancos Shale bedrock.
Diameter of boulders in bed of wash

Figure 3. View southwest from top of Book Cliffs of West Branch, an incised drainage in the SE 1/4
Section 27 that drains southeastward. Drab–gray discoloration in the foreground is interpreted as
sediment deposition due t

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Figure 4. deep and View northeast of East Branch in SE¼ NE¼ Section 26. Incision at this location is about 15 feel
d does not contact Mancos Shale bedrock; however, several hundred feet downstream of this
location, the East Branch cuts sever

Figure 5. View south-southwest from top of Book Cliffs toward linear feature that extends eastward from the three ponds. Linear jure 5. View south–southwest from top of Book Cliffs toward linear feature that extends eastward from
Interprodes and the ponds. Linear feature marks where calcareous siltstone beds of the Prairie Canyon Member o
Interpret

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hill. This Figure 6. View east-northeast of resistant calcareous siltstone bed(s?) cropping out in a low cuesta-like 6. View east-northeast of resistant calcareous siltstone bed(s?) cropping out in a low cuesta-like hill and a similar one about 50 yards to the east are along the linear feature seen from the top of the Book Cliffs.

NE¼ Figure SWY4 NE14 SW14 Section 23. Boulders have fallen down as part of recession of the Book Cliffs escarpment.

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U.S. Department of Energy-Grand Junction, Colorado

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Problem Statement:

Determination of the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site as the repository for the Moab uranium mill tailings material, and development of the site and regional seismotectonic sections of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) requires a thorough review of available literature that applies to the Crescent Junction site. The compiled list of references is presented at the end of this calculation set and relevant information is summarized below.

This calculation will be incorporated into Attachment 2 (Geology) of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and
Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site, and summarized in the appropriate sections of the Remedial Action Selection (RAS) report for the Moab site.

Method of Solution:

This literature review is part of the seismotectonic calculation set to develop seismic design parameters for the disposal site. Specifically, the calculation set includes a review of the pertinent literature, development of an estimate of the Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) and determination of the resulting design vibratory ground motion at the site (peak horizontal ground acceleration). The objective of this literature review is to identify the appropriate previous studies and published data pertaining to seismicity in the area. This review will support a more detailed investigation of the MCE and peak horizontal ground accelerations to be calculated specifically for the Crescent Junction site.

Two studies for other Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) sites in particular were referred to for this seismotectonic calculation set because of their similar project type and close proximity to the Crescent Junction site. Specifically, the seismotectonic studies from the RAP for the Green River, Utah, UMTRA site (DOE 1991a) and the Grand Junction UMTRA site (DOE 1991b) were principal resources for this review. The Green River, Utah site is a 380,000 cubic yard uranium disposal site located approximately 20 miles west of the Crescent Junction site, while the Grand Junction, Colorado, site is a 5.3 million cubic yard uranium disposal site located approximately 80 miles east of the Crescent Junction site. Although the Green River site is closer to the Crescent Junction site than the Grand Junction site, the seismotectonic investigation for Green River site was not as extensive as the investigation for Grand Junction. Therefore, the use of the Green River RAP as a reference is limited.

Assumptions:

It is assumed that the literature sources are reliable and representative of the current understanding of the seismotectonics of the region.

Calculation:

None required.

Criteria and Definitions:

The following are the standards and definitions that are applied to the evaluation of the seismicity of the Crescent Junction site as specified in the Technical Approach Document (TAD) (DOE 1989).

Design life. As specified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Promulgated Standards for Remedial Actions at Inactive uranium Processing Sites (40 CFR 192), the controls implemented at UMTRA Project sites are to be effective for up to 1,000 years, to the extent reasonably achievable and, in any case, for at least 200 years. For the purpose of the seismic hazard evaluation, a 1,000-year design life is adopted.

Design earthquake. For UMTRA Project sites, the magnitude(s) of the earthquake(s) that produces the largest on-site peak horizontal acceleration and that produces the most severe effects upon the site is the design earthquake. This earthquake could be either a floating earthquake or an earthquake whose

magnitude is derived from a relationship between fault length and maximum magnitude. The latter case is applied for a verified or assumed capable fault of known rupture length.

Floating earthquake (FE). An FE is an earthquake within a specific seismotectonic province that is not associated with a known tectonic structure. Before assigning the FE magnitude, the earthquake history and tectonic character of the province are analyzed.

Capable fault. A capable fault is a vault that has exhibited one or more of the following characteristics:

-Movement at or near the ground surface at least once within the past 35,000 years or movement of a recurring nature within the past 500,000 years.

-Macroseismicity (magnitude 3.5 or greater) determined with instruments of sufficient precision to demonstrate a direct relationship with the fault.

-A structural relationship to a capable fault such that movement on one fault could be reasonably expected to cause movement on the other.

Acceleration. Acceleration is the mean of the peaks of the two orthogonal horizontal components of an accelerogram record. The exact term used is "peak horizontal acceleration" (PHA). The accelerations are determined from the constrained attenuation relationship based on distance and magnitude as developed by Campbell (1981). The mean-plus-one standard deviation (84th percentile) value is adopted. This value is considered a non-amplified PHA.

Surface acceleration. Surface acceleration is the site acceleration adjusted for the site soil attenuation or amplification effects.

Duration of strong earthquake ground motion. Duration is defined, after Krinitzsky and Chang (1977), as the bracketed time interval in which the acceleration is greater than 0.05g. The methodology of Krinitzsky and Chang (1977) is applied in estimating the duration of strong ground motion at a particular site.

Magnitude and intensity. Magnitude is the base-10 logarithm of amplitude of the largest deflection observed on a torsion seismograph 100 kilometers (km) from the epicenter (Richter 1958). This local magnitude value may not be the same as the body-wave and surface-wave magnitudes derived from measurements at teleseismic distances. Unless specified otherwise, Richter magnitude values for values less than 6.5 are used in UMTRA Project seismic hazard evaluations.

Intensity is the index of the effects of any earthquake on the human population and structures. The most commonly applied scale is the 1931 Modified Mercalli (MM) Intensity Scale, which will be used in this study.

Because pre-instrumental earthquake records are reported in intensity and more recent instrumental records are in magnitude, there may be a need to relate these values. The relationship developed by Gutenburg and Richter (1956) is used:

$M = 1 + 2/3$ lo

Where $M =$ magnitude in the Richter scale and $I_0 = M$ odified Mercalli intensity in the epicentral area.

Maximum earthquake. The term Maximum Earthquake (ME) was defined by Krinitzsy and Chang (1977) as the largest earthquake that is reasonably expected on a given structure or within a given area. No recurrence interval is specified for such an event.

Local regional study area. The regional study area is selected by calculating the distance at which the largest magnitude earthquake possible for a region, as determined by Algermissen et al. (1982), produces the minimum accepted on-site design acceleration (0.10 g). All further characterization work is s then limited to this region. Using this definition, the maximum earthquake for the region as determined by

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Algermissen et al. (1982) is magnitude 6.1. Using Campbell (1981) attenuation relations for constrained, 84th percentile values, distances within 29 km of the site are considered within the local regional study area.

Expanded regional study area. Although UMTRA defines the study area as discussed above, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Title 10, Part 100, Appendix A requires an investigation within 200 miles of the site. For purposes of this seismotectonic evaluation, capable faults, historical earthquakes, and floating earthquakes associated with neighboring tectonic provinces that lie within 200 miles of the site and are capable of producing a minimum on-site acceleration of 0.1 Og or greater will be evaluated in the expanded regional study area.

Discussion:

Seismotectonic Setting

The Crescent Junction site is located in the northern portion of the Colorado Plateau tectonic province (Figure 1). The Colorado Plateau is a broad, roughly circular region of relative structural stability within a more structurally active region of disturbed mountain systems. Broad basins and uplifts, monoclines, and belts of anticlines and synclines are characteristic of the plateau (Kelley 1979). These basins and uplifts are generally considered to be inactive under the present seismotectonic regime. (DOE 1991b). All three of the referenced UMTRA sites are located within the northern portion of the Colorado Plateau physiographic and tectonic province.

The Colorado Plateau is surrounded by the provinces of the Wyoming Basin and Middle Rocky Mountains to the north, the Basin and Range province to the west and south, the Intermountain Seismic Belt (ISB) to the west, the Rio Grande Rift, and the Southern Rocky Mountains to the east (Keller and others 1979; Kelley and Clinton 1960; Kelley 1979; Allenby 1979; Kirkham and Rogers 1981). The boundaries of the provinces vary between authors; the Southern Rocky Mountains are divided into the Eastern and Western Mountain Province by Kirkham and Rogers (1981).

Within the Colorado Plateau, the Crescent Junction site lies in the northwestern part of the Paradox Basin (in the Paradox Fold and Fault Belt), approximately 8 miles south of the Uinta Basin sub-province. The Book Cliffs, less than 1 mile north of the Crescent Junction site, are the erosional escarpment on the south flank of the Uinta Basin. As shown in Figure 2, additional sub-provinces in the area include the San Rafael Swell to the west, Henry Basin, White Canyon Slope, Monument Upwarp, Blanding Basin and Four Corners Platform to the south, the San Juan Dome to the east, and the Uncompahgre Uplift to the northeast (Kelley 1955).

The Paradox Basin is characterized by complex systems of northwest-trending normal faults and landslide and slump features. Typical salt anticlinal collapse features extend to within about 2 miles of the site. These features have been active during Quaternary time and may be active today. However, since they result from very gradual processes of salt dissolution and flow, they are not likely capable of generating large earthquakes. Kirkham and Rogers (1981) estimate the maximum earthquakes possible on these features to be about magnitude 5 (DOE 1991 b; Kelley and Clinton, 1960).

Intermountain Seismic Belt (ISB)

The ISB (Smith and Sbar 1974; DOE 1991a) is a zone of pronounced earthquake activity extending north from Arizona and terminating in northwestern Montana. It is described by Ryall and others (1966) as being surpassed in seismic activity in the United States only by the California and Nevada seismic zones. The ISB is coincident with the boundary between the Basin and Range province and the Colorado Plateau/Middle Rocky Mountains. The largest historical event in the ISB was the 1959 Hebgen Lake earthquake of Richter magnitude 7.7 plus or minus 0.2. More than 15 events with magnitudes greater than 6 have been reported since the mid 1 800s. The site lies approximately 50 miles east of the highly active ISB.

. Rio Grande Rift

The Rio Grande Rift (Kirkham and Rogers 1981, DOE 1991a) is a north-south trending extensional graben feature that extends from Chihuahua, Mexico, to northern Colorado. The rift was initiated in Neogene time and has experienced continued activity through the Quaternary. The rift is characterized by Neogene basin-fill sedimentary rocks, and a bimodal suite of mafic and silicic igneous rocks, and abundant features suggesting recently active faults, such as fault scarps in young alluvium, abrupt mountain fronts that exhibit faceted spurs, and deep, narrow linear valleys. A high percentage of all the potentially capable faults in Colorado and New Mexico lie within this province. Well-defined evidence of repeated Late Quaternary movement is abundant on several faults in the southern portion of the province, whereas such evidence is obscure in the northern portion. The closest approach of the Rio Grande Rift to the site area is about 270 km (170 miles).

Wyoming Basin

The Wyoming Basin (DOE 1991a) consists of a series of broad structural and topographic basins that merge with and resemble the adjoining part of the Colorado Plateau (Hunt 1967). These basins are partly filled with Tertiary deposits and are separated by low anticlinal uplifts of older rocks. The earthquake history of the Wyoming Basin is apparently similar to the widely distributed, low- to moderate-magnitude pattern of the stable interior portion of the Colorado Plateau. Witkind (1975) identified numerous suspected active faults in the Wyoming Basin along the Colorado-Wyoming border between 107 and 108 degrees west longitude, which may represent a continuation of structures associated with the Rio Grande Rift in Colorado. However, these faults are not known to have been associated with seismic activity.

*** Southern Rocky** Mountains/Mountain Provinces

The Mountain Provinces are divided into the Eastern and Western Mountain Provinces by Kirkham and Rogers (1981). The Eastern Mountain Province includes the Front and Medicine Bow Ranges, Middle and South Parks, and the east flanks of the Mosquito and Sangre de Cristo Ranges. Most of the faults in this province have Laramide, late Paleozoic, or even Precambrian ancestry. Several of the faults show considerable Neogene movement. A few of these faults have moved during the Quaternary. The distribution, orientation, and character of Neogene movement on these faults suggest rejuvenation is related to the extensional stresses responsible for rifting. The Western Mountain Province includes the San Juan Mountains, Elk and West Elk Mountains, west flank of the Sawatch Range, White River uplift, and Gunnison uplift. Neogene faults are relatively scarce in this province. Many of the faults that are present are not truly tectonic features, but rather are the results of evaporate flowage or caldera collapse. Despite an apparent absence of major Neogene tectonic faults, numerous earthquakes have been felt and/or instrumentally located in the province. The site is located approximately 200 km (130 miles) from the nearest portion of the Southern Rocky Mountain province.

Quaternary Faults

Quaternary faults and folds were evaluated using the USGS Quaternary Fault and Fold database (USGS 2002) and the Quaternary Fault and Fold database from the Utah Geological Survey (Black et al. 2003). Quaternary faults that are within the expanded regional study area are presented in Figure 3 and in Appendix A. Faults that are within 40 miles of the site are numbered using the identification system in the USGS database on Figure 3 and are described below.

*** Salt Valley and Cache Valley Faults (2474)**

The faults are within a northwest-trending zone of folding, faulting, and warping related to dissolution and collapse of the Salt Valley anticline in eastern Utah, north of Moab. Collapse of the Salt Valley anticline appears to largely post-date late Pliocene deposition of exotic fluvial gravels (likely derived from a since-eroded source in the Book Cliffs) on the rim and floor of Salt Valley and formation of an erosion surface on the flank of the anticline. Small depositional basins within Salt Valley containing Bishop ash (~740 ka) and Lava Creek B ash (670 ka) were localized by salt dissolution and collapse

and/or salt flow during early and middle Quaternary time and record syn and post depositional folding and faulting. Faults are parallel and appear related to the major older structures of the anticline. At the lower end of the valley, slightly tilted and relatively undeformed middle to late Quaternary basin fill deposits unconformably overlie older more-deformed units. Structural relations exposed at other localities in the valley suggest that Quaternary sediments have been deformed and localized by movement within salt diapirs of the Paradox Formation. Playas and mudflats in upper Salt Valley indicate active deformation (due to salt flow or dissolution) and damming of surface runoff. A stream that crosses the south end of the Salt Valley anticline at a high angle is entrenched and bordered by probable late Holocene terraces north of the anticline and is braided and unentrenched in the short reach within Salt Valley, suggesting that the core of the anticline is presently subsiding and causing stream aggradation. In Cache Valley, a Quaternary erosion surface that apparently post-dates collapse related deformation is displaced by a major bedrock fault and may have been tilted. East of Cache Valley, Colorado River terraces are tilted upstream on the upstream side of the Cache Valley anticline, indicating that salt flowed into the collapsed structure during Quaternary time. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). The slip rate is unknown, but is likely to be <0.2 mm/yr. The length of the fault is 58 km (Black and others 2003).

* **Ten Mile Graben (2473)**

The Ten Mile Graben is a narrow zone of faulting displacing Cretaceous and Jurassic bedrock along Salt Wash southeast of Green River. The graben is on the northwestern edge of an area typified by northwest-trending, elongate, oval valleys that are collapsed or depressed anticlines. The graben is probably related to salt dissolution, but may have a tectonic component. Woodward-Clyde Consultants (1996) found no evidence for Quaternary deformation and did not consider the graben as a capable fault for seismic-hazard assessment purposes. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). The slip rate is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The length of fault is 35 km (Black and others 2003).

* **Moab Fault and Spanish Valley Faults (2476)**

The Moab Fault and Spanish Valley faults consist of a northwest-trending zone of faulting and warping from collapse of the Moab Valley anticline from salt dissolution. The Moab fault bounds the western side of the valley and may have a tectonic component. Shoemaker and others (1958) and Jones (1959) indicate that the fault may extend below the salt, offsetting pre Paradox Formation strata. Collapse of the Moab Valley anticline appears to largely post-date deposition of early and middle Pleistocene alluvium on and near the rim of the valley (Harden and others 1985). A wellpreserved relic canyon on the rim of Moab Canyon, whose headwaters were apparently removed by collapse of the anticline, probably formed during late Tertiary to early Quaternary time (Oviatt 1988). Distribution of middle Pleistocene through Holocene alluvial deposits suggests differential subsidence in Spanish Valley (due to tectonism or salt dissolution/migration). Marshes at the lower end of Spanish Valley may be evidence of Holocene subsidence. Woodward-Clyde Consultants (1996) indicates the youngest rocks or structures demonstrably displaced by the Moab fault are Cretaceous or Tertiary in age, and did not consider the faults as capable faults for seismic-hazard assessment purposes. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). The slip rate is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The length of fault is 68 km. (Black and others 2003).

* **Price River Area Faults (2457)**

The Price River area faults are generally east-west striking faults along the Price River west of the Book Cliffs. The faults are in a long, sinuous area along the base of the Book Cliffs termed the Mancos Shale Lowlands, characterized by sloping pediments, rugged badlands, and narrow flatbottomed alluvial valleys in Cretaceous rock. Some faults within the zone displace pre Wisconsin-age pediments less than 2 meters. Structural relations indicate that the fault zone forms the crest of a broad, collapsed anticline. The fault zone is similar in trend, pattern, and length to faults along the crest of the Moab Valley anticline (2476), although it is not as strongly developed. The faults are inferred to be related to a salt anticline at the northern margin of the Paradox basin. Early to middle Pleistocene pediments north of the fault zone steepen sharply at the base of the Book Cliffs, and may be warped due to elastic rebound of the Mancos Shale during erosional unloading and/or monoclinal

folding. The ancestral course of Whitmore Canyon (near Sunnyside) also appears to be warped. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). The slip rate is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The fault length is 51 km. (Black and others 2003).

Little Dolores River Fault (2251)

The Little Dolores River fault extends from Utah into Colorado on the northeast flank of the Uncompahgre uplift. Evidence for Quaternary movement on this fault was cited in Witkind (1976) based on personal communication with Fred Cater. Based on the timing of abandonment of Unaweep Canyon, Cater (1966) indicated uplift of the Uncompahgre Plateau began in the mid-Pliocene and continued into the Pleistocene, resulting in as much as 640 meters of differential uplift. Despite the lack of evidence of faulted Quaternary deposits along the Little Dolores River fault, it has been classified as a Quaternary fault (Howard and others 1978; Kirkham and Rogers 1981; Colman 1985), and no references have been published that refute this age assignment. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). Despite a lack of evidence for offset in Quaternary deposits, faults associated with the Uncompahgre uplift are often considered to have experienced Quaternary movement. The slip-rate category is unknown, but likely <0.2 mm/yr. The length of fault is 16 km (Black and others 2003).

* **Sand Flat Graben Faults (2475)**

The Sand Flat graben faults include the northern graben-bounding fault (Dry Gulch fault) and subsidiary within the Sand Flat graben. The southern graben-bounding fault is included in the discussion of the Ryan Creek fault zone (2263). The faults are west- to northwest-trending within the Sand Flat graben along the southwestern margin of the Uncompahgre uplift northeast of the Paradox Basin. The Uncompahgre uplift is a northwest-trending, east-tilted fault block. The Uinta Basin borders the northwest end of the uplift. Faults are part of a regional zone of northwest- to westtrending normal faults along the Utah-Colorado border, within a monoclinal flexure that forms the southwest margin of the Uncompahgre uplift. Different movement histories and cumulative Quaternary displacements have been inferred for the fault zone based on studies of the canyon and related drainage changes, but most studies suggest that differential uplift has continued into the early or late Pleistocene. Diversion of drainage, which followed impoundment and formation of a lake, occurred -775 ka (Perry and Annis 1990). Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). The slip rate is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The fault length is 23 km.

* **Ryan Creek Fault Zone (2263)**

The Ryan Creek fault zone trends east-west along the southwestern margin of the Uncompahgre uplift. About half of the fault length is in Utah. The fault extends east into Colorado from the flank of Haystack Peaks parallel to Ryan Gulch, and then bends southeast toward Unaweep Canyon. Individual faults in the fault zone form the southern margin of the Sand Flat graben in Utah and the northeast margin of the Ute Creek graben in Colorado. The Ryan Creek fault zone lies on the southwestern margin of the Uncompahgre uplift along the Utah-Colorado border. Evidence for Quaternary movement on this fault zone is cited in Witkind (1976) based on personal communication with Fred Cater. Cater (1966) indicated uplift of the Uncompahgre Plateau began in the mid-Pliocene and continued into the Pleistocene, resulting in as much as 640 meters of differential uplift. Despite the lack of evidence of faulted Quaternary deposits along the Ryan Creek fault zone, it has been classified as a Quaternary fault (Howard and others 1978; Kirkham and Rogers 1981; Colman 1985), and no references have been published that refute this age assignment. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). A small earthquake (ML 2.9) and several aftershocks in 1985 may have occurred on the Ryan Creek fault zone (Ely and others 1986). The slip-rate is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The fault length is 39 km. (Black and others 2003).

* **Granite Creek Fault Zone (2265)**

The Granite Creek fault zone is a northwest-trending fault zone, which extends from Utah into , iColorado north of Steamboat Mesa on the southwest flank of the Uncompahgre uplift. Williams (1964) mapped Quaternary deposits as both concealing and abutting the fault. Cater (1966) indicated uplift

of the Uncompahgre Plateau began in the mid-Pliocene and continued into the Pleistocene, resulting in as much as 640 meters of differential uplift. Despite the lack of evidence of faulted Quaternary deposits along the Granite Creek fault zone, it has been classified as a Quaternary fault (Kirkham and Rogers 1981; Colman 1985), and no references have been published that refute this age assignment. The Granite Creek fault zone consists of high-angle normal faults that are mostly down-to-thenortheast. The fault lies in a tectonically weakened area above the ancestral Uncompahgre fault zone (Stone 1977). Geomorphic indicators of youthful faulting have not been reported.

Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). Offset of Quaternary deposits is inconclusive since Williams (1964) showed Quaternary deposits as abutting against the fault and concealing the fault. However, faults associated with the Uncompahgre uplift are often considered to have experienced Quaternary movement. Based on the timing of abandonment of Unaweep Canyon, Cater (1966) indicated uplift of the Uncompahgre Plateau began in the mid-Pliocene and continued into the Pleistocene, resulting in as much as 640 meters of differential uplift. The slip-rate category is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The fault length is 23 km.

Fisher Valley Faults (2478)

The Fisher Valley faults are a result of late Quaternary folding and warping in Fisher Valley from salt dissolution and collapse. Fisher Valley is on the crest of a long anticlinal structure that includes Salt and Cache Valleys in Utah and Sinbad and Roc Creek Valleys in Colorado. The valley formed from collapse of the anticline (Onion Creek diapir) due to salt dissolution. The faults border and define Fisher Valley. Formation of the valley by collapse of the anticline beheaded streams whose broad shallow channels are preserved on the valley rim. Upper Cenozoic deposits, by far the thickest sequence in the Paradox basin (>125 meters thick), have ages between >2.5 Ma (based on paleomagnetic analysis) and about 250 ka (based on secondary carbonate accumulation rates) and record episodic deformation from movements of the Onion Creek salt diapir and basin subsidence (resulting from salt flowage into the diapir and/or salt dissolution and collapse). Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma), based on tephrachronology, soil development, and stream dissection rate. Young basin fill deposits demonstrating recent movement are absent, but evidence for rapid incision (3 millimeters/year based on 14C dates), and steep, unstable slopes where Onion Creek cuts through the cap rock, suggest that the diapir may be presently active. The slip rate is unknown, but is likely <0.2 mm/yr. The fault length is 16 km. (Black and others 2003).

Historical Earthquakes

Instrumentally and historically recorded earthquakes within a study area of 200 miles around the site were documented using the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) website (NEIC 2005). Databases searched included USGS/NEIC Preliminary Determinations of Epicenters (PDE) monthly listing, weekly listings (PDE-W), daily listings (PDE-Q), Significant U.S. Earthquakes (USHIS), and Eastern, Central, and Mountain States of the United States (SRA). The earthquakes are shown graphically in Figure 4 and also in table form in Appendix B.

Maximum **Credible Earthquakes**

A study by Kirkham and Rogers (1981) estimated the maximum credible earthquakes of tectonic provinces within the state of Colorado. In addition, the RAP for the Grand Junction/Cheney disposal site (DOE 1991b) estimated maximum earthquakes associated with regional tectonic provinces. Table 1 summarizes these estimates for the provinces within this study region.

Table 1. Estimate of Maximum Credible Earthquakes Associated with Tectonic Provinces

Peak Ground Accelerations

A contour map for peak horizontal acceleration in rock with 90 percent probability to not being exceeded in 50 years is presented for the contiguous United States by Algermissen and others (1990), showing the site to have a peak horizontal acceleration of 0.025g. Contour maps developed for the National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project (Frankel and others 2002a and 2002b) show the peak acceleration to be 0.045 g with a 10 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years, and 0.12 g with a 2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years.

Halling et al. (2002) developed peak acceleration maps for the state of Utah. In this study, the maximum credible earthquakes for all known or suspected Quaternary faults in the state were calculated using relationships developed by Wells and Coppersmith (1994). Ground motion was attenuated across the state using three different attenuation relationships. Contours of peak horizontal bedrock accelerations were developed. The peak ground acceleration for the Crescent Junction site was estimated to be between 0.41 and 0.60 g. These ground accelerations were predominately influenced by predicted ground motion from the Salt and Cache Valley faults.

For comparison purposes only, the peak ground accelerations determined for the UMTRA sites at Green River and Grand Junction/Cheney disposal site were investigated. The seismotectonic stability study performed for the Green River disposal site recommended the design acceleration based on a floating earthquake of magnitude (ML) 6.2 occurring 15 km (9.5 miles) from the site, resulting in a peak ground acceleration of 0.21 g.

Seismotectonic stability studies done for the Grand Junction mill tailings/Cheney disposal site identified a fault with a length of 11.0 km and a distance of 9.0 km from the site. Although no evidence of Quaternary displacement was proven, it was considered to be capable on the basis of its apparent association with a possibly active regional structure, the Uncompahgre Uplift. This fault was adopted as the design fault for the Cheney disposal site, resulting in a recommended design acceleration of 0.42 g.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Determination of the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site as the repository for the Moab uranium mill tailings material, and development of the site and regional seismotectonic sections of the RAP requires a thorough review of available literature that applies to the Crescent Junction site. The results of this review indicate that there are nine Quaternary fault systems within 40 miles of the site that have been numbered using the identification system in the USGS database. The closest fault systems to the Crescent Junction Site are the Salt Valley and Cache Valley Faults (2474). However, these faults appear related to dissolution and collapse of the Salt Valley anticline in eastern Utah, north of Moab. Timing of most recent paleoevent is Quaternary (<1.6 Ma). The slip rate is unknown, but is likely to be <0.2 mm/yr. The length of the fault is 58 km (Black and others 2003). Further analysis of the faults, and historical earthquake events will be performed in additional calculation sets to determine the maximum credible earthquake and associated ground accelerations.

Computer Source:

Not applicable.

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NEIC: Earthquake Search Results

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EARTHQUAKE DATA BASE

This file Includes all earthquakes In **PDE, SRA and USHIS databases within 200 miles (320 km) of site with magnitudes greater than or equal to 3.0 and intensities greater than or equal to** 3.0.

FILE CREATED: Tue Jul 26 09:46:31 2005 Circle Search Earthquakes= 598 Circle Center Point Latitude: 38.970N Longitude: 109.790W Radius: 320.000 km Catalog Used: PDE Data Selection: Historical & Preliminary Data Catalog Used: PDE Data Selection: Preliminary Data Only Catalog Used: SRA Data Selection: Eastern, Central and Mountain States of U.S. (SRA) Catalog Used: USHIS Data Selection: Significant U.S. Earthquakes (USHIS)

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Calculation Cover Sheet
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Calc. No.: MOA-02-09-2005-01-09-01 Discipline: Geologic and No. of Sheets: 18 Geophysical Properties

Project: Moab Project

Site: Crescent Junction Disposal Site

Feature:

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Site and Regional Seismicity- Results of Maximum Credible Earthquake Estimation and Peak Horizontal Acceleration

Sources of Data:

Published reports and maps - see list of references at end of calculation set.

Sources of Formulae and References:

Wells and Coppersmith (1994) relationships are used to estimate the maximum credible earthquake (MCE) from fault rupture length and rupture area data.

Campbell and Bozorgnia (2003) relationships are used to estimate attenuation of peak horizontal acceleration (PHA) to the site.

References: see list of references at end of calculation set.

Problem Statement:

Determination of the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site as the repository for the Moab uranium mill tailings material, and development of the site and regional seismotectonic sections of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) requires an estimation of the Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) and the attenuation of the peak horizontal acceleration (PHA) associated with this MCE to the site.

Method of Solution:

The estimation of MCE and the associated PHA are part of the seismotectonic calculation set to develop seismic design parameters for the disposal site. Following procedures outlined in the UMTRA - DOE Technical Approach Document (TAD) (DOE 1989), the calculation set includes an estimation of the floating earthquake (FE) associated with the Colorado Plateau province applied 15 km from the site, the MCE associated with all pertinent outlying provinces, and the MCE associated with all known or suspected Quaternary faults within the study region. For each of these identified earthquake events, the on-site PHA is assessed and the design PHA is established.

Assumptions:

It is assumed that the literature sources are reliable and representative of the current understanding of the seismotectonic characteristics of the region.

Calculation:

MCE estimations are calculated using the formulas developed by Wells and Coppersmith (1994) as follows:

Where M is Moment Magnitude, SRL is surface rupture length (km), and RA is rupture area ($km²$). The coefficients in these equations are based on regression data developed for all slip types.

Attenuation to the site is calculated using the corrected peak ground acceleration, mean-plus-one standard deviation (84th percentile) relationship developed by Campbell and Bozorgnia (2003) as follows:

 $\ln Y = c_1 + f_1(M_w) + c_4$ * $\ln \sqrt{f_2(M_w, r_{seis}, S)} + f_3(F) + f_4(S) + f_5(HW, F, M_w, r_{seis}) + \varepsilon$ (Eq. 3)

Where $Y =$ peak horizontal ground acceleration,

C1, C4 **=** coefficients corresponding to corrected PHA regression analysis,

 M_w =moment magnitude,

Rseis = closest distance from site to seismogenic rupture (km), where depth to seismogenic rupture is a minimum of 3 km (Campbell 1997)

S = local site condition factors (consistent with firm rock sites for Crescent Junction),

 $F =$ faulting mechanism factors (consistent with normal faulting for Crescent Junction),

HW = hanging-wall effect factor for faults with surface projection within 5 km of site and fault dip less than or equal to 70 degrees, and

 ϵ = random error term equivalent to zero for mean and standard deviation equal to σ_{inv} , defined as a function of magnitude.

The Campbell and Bozorgnia (2003) relationship is an updated attenuation relationship to the Campbell (1981) relationship referenced in the TAD (DOE 1989).

Criteria and Definitions:

The following are the standards and definitions that are applied to the evaluation of the seismicity of the Crescent Junction site as specified in the TAD (DOE 1989, p. 133).

Design life. As specified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Promulgated Standards for Remedial Actions at Inactive Uranium Processing Sites (40 CFR 192), the controls implemented at UMTRA Project sites are to be effective for up to 1,000 years, to the extent reasonably achievable and, in any case, for at least 200 years. For the purpose of the seismic hazard evaluation, a 1,000-year design life is adopted.

Design earthquake. For UMTRA Project sites, the magnitude(s) of the earthquake(s) that produces the largest on-site peak horizontal acceleration and that produces the most severe effects upon the site is the design earthquake. This earthquake could be either a floating earthquake or an earthquake whose magnitude is derived from a relationship between fault length and maximum magnitude. The latter case is applied for a verified or assumed capable fault of known rupture length.

Floating earthquake (FE). An FE is an earthquake within a specific seismotectonic province that is not associated with a known tectonic structure. Before assigning the FE magnitude, the earthquake history and tectonic character of the province are analyzed.

Capable fault. A capable fault is a fault that has exhibited one or more of the following characteristics:

-Movement at or near the ground surface at least once within the past 35,000 years or movement of a recurring nature within the past 500,000 years.

-Macroseismicity (magnitude 3.5 or greater) determined with instruments of sufficient precision to demonstrate a direct relationship with the fault.

-A structural relationship to a capable fault such that movement on one fault could be reasonably expected to cause movement on the other.

Acceleration. Acceleration is the mean of the peaks of the two orthogonal horizontal components of an accelerogram record. The exact term used is "peak horizontal acceleration" (PHA). The accelerations are determined from the corrected peak horizontal ground acceleration attenuation relationship based on distance and magnitude as developed by Campbell and Bozorgnia (2003). The mean-plus-one standard deviation (84th percentile) value is adopted. This relationship is an update to the Campbell (1981) relationship referenced in the TAD (DOE 1989).

Surface acceleration. Surface acceleration is the site acceleration adjusted for the site soil attenuation or amplification effects.

Magnitude and intensity. Magnitude is the base-10 logarithm of amplitude of the largest deflection observed on a torsion seismograph 100 km from the epicenter (Richter 1958). This local magnitude value may not be the same as the body-wave and surface-wave magnitudes derived from measurements at teleseismic distances. Unless specified otherwise, Richter magnitudes for values less than 6.5 are used in UMTRA Project seismic hazard evaluations. Intensity is the index of the effects of any earthquake on the human population and structures. The most commonly applied scale is the 1931 Modified Mercalli (MM) Intensity Scale, which will be used in this study.

Maximum earthquake. The term Maximum Earthquake (ME) was defined by Krinitzsy and Chang (1977) as the largest earthquake that is reasonably expected on a given structure or within a given area. No recurrence interval is specified for such an event.

Local regional study area. The regional study area is selected by calculating the distance at which the largest magnitude earthquake possible for a region, as determined by Algermissen et al. (1982), produces the minimum accepted on-site design acceleration (0.1 Og). All further characterization work is then limited to this region. Using this definition, the maximum earthquake for the region as determined by Algermissen et al. (1982) is magnitude 6.1. Using Campbell and Bozorgnia (2003) attenuation relations

for corrected peak ground accelerations, 84th percentile values, distances within 30 km of the site are considered within the local regional study area.

Expanded regional study area. Although UMTRA defines the study area as discussed above, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Title 10, Part 100, Appendix A requires an investigation within 200 miles of the site. For purposes of this seismotectonic evaluation, capable faults, historical earthquakes, and floating earthquakes associated with neighboring tectonic provinces that lie within 200 miles of the site and are capable of producing a minimum on-site acceleration of 0.1Og or greater will be evaluated in the expanded regional study area.

Discussion:

Floating Earthquake

The purpose of the FE evaluation is to estimate a "background" level of seismicity within a tectonic province. The FE evaluation allows for potential low to moderate earthquakes not associated with tectonic structures to affect the site. Large earthquakes would be expected to leave a detectable surface expression, especially in arid to semiarid climates, with slow erosion rates and limited vegetation. The maximum magnitude associated with an FE event is assumed to be 6.2, consistent with that used in the Grand Junction RAP (DOE 1991, pg. 71).

Historical earthquake data for the area within a 200-mile radius of the Crescent Junction site were obtained for the initial phase of this study. The complete data file was included in Appendix B of the literature review calculation set (Calculation Set No. MOA-02-08-2005-07-00). To assess the FE magnitude and recurrence interval associated with the Colorado Plateau, a second historical earthquake search was conducted to limit events to those occurring within the boundaries of the Colorado Plateau (NEIC 2005). A rectangular search was conducted initially, with the latitudes constrained to between 34.5 and 40.75 degrees north, and the longitude between 106.5 and 112.5 degrees west. After the initial search, events with epicenters lying outside the boundaries of the Colorado Plateau as shown in Figure 1 were deleted. For consistency, moment magnitude (Mw) was used where possible. Consistent with Campbell (1981) attenuation equations, M_w was considered approximately equal to surface wave magnitudes (M_s) for events greater than 6.0, and approximately equal to local magnitude (M_L) for events smaller than 6.0. Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) values were converted to Richter scale using the following equation:

$$
M = 1 + \frac{2}{3} * I_o
$$
 (Eq. 4)

where $M =$ magnitude on the Richter scale, and I_n is the MMI in the epicentral area.

Magnitudes were used in this order of preference: M_w , M_s if >6.0, M_l if ≤ 6.0 , other reported magnitudes, and MMI values converted to magnitude.

Events were filtered to include only events with magnitudes equal or greater than 3.0. Events that are thought to be non-tectonic in origin or induced by non-natural causes are not considered further in the evaluation. One cluster of such events is described by Smith and Sbar (1974) to include a swarm of events at latitude 39.5 N and longitude 110.75 W located along the Book Cliffs in the coal mining district of eastern Utah. These earthquakes, the largest of magnitude 4.5, are thought to be indirectly triggered by subsurface coal mining in an area of high regional stress. Other events include those associated with fluid injection at the Rangely oil field along the border between northeastern Utah and northwestern Colorado, and a series of events associated with the Paradox Valley desalinization project that included *deep water injections beginning in 1995 (Colorado Geological Survey 2002). In addition, the earthquake data was declustered to remove aftershocks and foreshocks. The events considered in the evaluation of the Colorado Plateau FE are shown in Appendix A.

As shown in Figure 1, there is more activity on the borders of the Colorado Plateau than within the interior portions. This increased activity is associated with the transitional area of crustal thinning $(30 - 35)$ km along the perimeter area) associated with extension. The interior of the Plateau has a crustal thickness of approximately 45 km (Keller et al. 1979). For the FE evaluation, a conservative recurrence of events was evaluated for the entire Colorado Plateau; the interior and perimeter portions were not evaluated separately.

The regional study area is located in an area with a relatively quiet recorded earthquake history. The first recorded earthquake in the state of Utah was estimated to have a Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) of IV, and occurred near Salt Lake City in 1850 (Arabasz et al. 1979). The earliest recorded earthquake event in Colorado had a MMI of VI, and occurred near Pueblo in 1870 (Kirkham and Rogers 1981). Since this time, only approximately 15 events have been recorded within the Colorado Plateau with an intensity greater than VI or a magnitude greater than 5. Most of these early events were recorded in populated areas. This short recorded history can be misleading when attempting to predict future events, especially in sparsely populated areas such as the Colorado Plateau, and should be used with caution (Kirkham and Rogers 1981). The historical completeness record was estimated by examining the data set of events and the frequency of recorded occurrence as grouped by magnitude. By examining the frequency distribution with time, the completeness record can be estimated, as shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4. For this report, it is estimated that the historical record is complete since approximately 1890 for events with a magnitude 5.0 or greater, approximately 1960 for events with a magnitude of 4.0 or greater, and approximately 1970 for events with a magnitude of 3.0 or greater. This is in general agreement with the completeness record assumed for the Cheney disposal cell in Grand Junction, Colorado (DOE 1991, p. 68).

A log-frequency versus magnitude plot was generated for the Colorado Plateau, and a straight line fit to the data. The estimated recurrence interval for the Colorado Plateau was estimated to be represented by the equation

$$
M = 4.35 - 0.82 \cdot \log(\frac{1}{y})
$$
 (Eq. 5)

where y is the recurrence interval. The graphical representation is shown in Figure 5. The frequencymagnitude data can also be normalized with area to be of the form

$$
M = 4.35 - 0.82 \cdot \log \frac{A_p}{y \cdot a}, \quad \text{(Eq. 5)}
$$

Where Ap= area of the Colorado Plateau Province (approximately 117,000 square miles or 303,000 square km),

 $y =$ recurrence interval, and $a =$ area of interest.

When normalized to 1 square km, the recurrence interval is represented by

$$
M = -0.14 - 0.82 \cdot \log(\frac{1}{v}).
$$
 (Eq. 6)

Limiting the FE event to magnitude 6.2, and assuming this event occurs at a radial distance of 15 km (9 miles) from the site, results in a PHA of 0.22 g (using Campbell and Bozorgnia 2003 corrected peak horizontal ground acceleration, 84th percentile relationship). Based on the above Eq. 5, the recurrence interval of a 6.2 event occurring within 15 km of the site is 77,000 years. The probability of this event being exceeded within the assumed design life of 1,000 years is one percent.

Figure 1. Historical Earthquake Events within the Colorado Plateau

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MCE associated with Outlying Tectonic Provinces

The MCE values for remote seismotectonic provinces, such as the Intermountain Seismic Belt, Rio Grande Rift, Wyoming Basin, and Southern Rocky Mountains were taken from published studies (Kirkham and Rogers 1981, DOE 1991). The MCE from each event is attenuated to the site assuming that the event occurs at the point within the outlying province that is closest to the site. The PHA calculated for each event is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. PHA associated with MCE event in outlying tectonic provinces

Figure 2. Magnitude 3.0 to 3.0 Earthquake Frequency-Colorado Plateau

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Figure 3. Magnitude 4.0 to 4.9 Earthquake Frequency-Colorado Plateau

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Figure 4. Magnitude 5.0 to 5.9 Earthquake Frequency-Colorado Plateau

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As shown in the above table, the greatest PHA associated with an outlying province is a 7.9 magnitude event occurring within the Intermountain Seismic Zone, resulting in a PHA of 0.08 g.

MCE associated with known or suspected Quaternary faults

Quaternary faults were identified using the USGS and Utah Geological Survey Quaternary Fault and Fold databases (Black et al. 2003, USGS 2002). An initial search for critical Quaternary faults was conducted using the minimum fault lengths given in NRC document 10 CFR part 100, Appendix A, as shown in Table 2. The complete list of faults meeting these minimum length requirements was included in the Literature Review calculation set, Appendix A.

Table 2. Minimum length of fault to be considered in establishing MCE

In addition to faults included in the Quaternary Fault and Fold database, faults of undetermined age that are shown on geologic maps in the area (Williams 1964, Gualtieri 1988, Witkind 1995, Williams and Hackman 1971), were considered if the PHA associated with these structures (if considered Quaternary) is greater than 0.1 g. The faults considered in this study are shown in Figure 6. In addition, a tabular form of the data is shown in the current calculation set as Appendix B. Figure 7 shows the considered faults overlain by historical earthquakes in the area. No historical earthquake events (above magnitude 3.0) are associated with any of the considered faults that could impact the site.

The MCE associated with each fault was calculated using Wells and Coppersmith (1994) relationships. PHA was calculated using Campbell and Bozorgnia (2003) attenuation equations. Using these relationships, thirteen faults were initially identified as potentially capable of producing site PHA values greater than 0.10 g, and are summarized in Table 3.

As discussed in the literature review (Calculation Set No.MOA-02-08-2005-07-00), the Salt and Cache Valley faults, Ten Mile Graben, and the Moab and Spanish Valley faults are all associated with the salt structures within the Paradox Basin. Reports by Olig et al. (1996), Woodward-Clyde (1996), and Woodward-Clyde (1984) found no evidence of Quaternary tectonic deformation of these structures. Based on detailed mapping, structural evidence, and geophysical data, Olig et al (1996) determined that the faults within the Moab and Spanish Valley are most likely related to salt-dissolution. They concluded that the primary movement on the Moab Fault is tectonic and occurred during a period of Tertiary extension. In addition, most, if not all, of the slip on the Moab fault is pre-Quaternary, and that the Moab Fault is a shallow structure that probably soles into the Moab salt-cored anticline within 2 km depth along much of its length. Therefore, it would most likely not be capable of producing significant earthquakes.

Figure 7. Considered Faults and Historical Earthquake Events within the Colorado Plateau

Table 3. Preliminary MCE associated with Quatemary faults and faults of unknown age

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Table 3 (continued). Preliminary MCE associated with Quaternary faults and faults of unknown age

^aFault number identical to UGS Quaternary Fault and Fold Database if fault is included in database, otherwise assigned number 1 – 7 unique to this report.
^bMCE based on rupture area, where data available, otherwise bas

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م **\ede** 2 **C-n0** a* In addition, geomorphic expression of the fault indicates very low rates of activity. The report also indicates that the earthquake potential of the other salt structures within the Paradox Basin may also be similarly low. From these discussions, the MCE associated with these structures was calculated using ' Wells and Coppersmith (1994) relationships based on rupture area, assuming that the rupture depth is 2 km.

In 1979, a seismic monitoring program was initiated to assess the seismicity of the Paradox Basin at the microearthquake level. A report by Woodward-Clyde (1984) studying the Salt Valley area indicated that from 1979 time through 1984, only two events were detected in the Salt Valley area (M_L of 1.2, and 2.1). They concluded that the seismicity associated with the study area is generally diffusely distributed and of low level and small magnitude, consistent with the longer historical record of the interior of the Colorado Plateau. From these data, it is assumed that there is no seismicity associated with the Salt and Cache Valley faults, and the faults are not considered capable.

The unnamed faults in the Westwater 30' x 60' quadrangle map are of undocumented age. Faults 1, 2, and 3 are associated with the Thompson anticline. They are described by Gualtieri (1988) as "high-angle normal faults and are the result of subsidence following the exsolution of salt." Thus, the faults may have initiated due to salt movement. There is currently a lack of evidence suggesting Quaternary displacement. Faults 4 through 7 are also of unknown age. However, the PHA of faults 5 through 7, if active, are below that calculated for the FE event (0.22 g). The PHA of fault 4 (0.29 g) is above that calculated for the FE event.

A preliminary field investigation of several of the unnamed faults listed in Table 3 was conducted by Craig Goodknight, S.M. Stoller, and Greg Smith, consultant, on November 22, 2005. Unnamed faults 1 and 2 were investigated for evidence of Quaternary displacement. These faults, associated with the Thompson Anticline (Willis, 1986; Doelling, 2001), showed no evidence of Quaternary movement (no Quaternary deposits were displaced by the faults). Farther to the north, unnamed fault 3 was not investigated, but it is of similar strike and also occurs along the Thompson Anticline. It was concluded that no recent movement has occurred along these faults associated with the Thompson Anticline, and that they reflect slow, incipient subsidence related to dissolution of deep salt deposits along the northeast edge of the Paradox Basin. This conclusion is also drawn by Gualtieri (1988) as "high-angle normal faults and are the result of subsidence following the exsolution of salt".

Also as part of the investigation, several faults in the northern part of the system of Salt and Cache Valley faults were checked for evidence of Quaternary movement. These west-northwest-striking faults are east and west of Floy Wash in the Hatch Mesa 7.5-minute quadrangle (Chitwood, 1994; Doelling, 2001). Associated with the Salt Valley Anticline, these faults showed no evidence of Quaternary movement (no displacement of Quaternary deposits by the faults). Just to the north of these faults in the Westwater $30' \times 60'$ quadrangle, unnamed faults 4, 5, and 6 were not investigated, but they are of similar strike and also are related to the Salt Valley Anticline. It was similarly concluded that no Quaternary movement has occurred on these faults associated with the Salt Valley Anticline, and that they are also related to dissolution of deep salt deposits in the northern Paradox Basin.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Of the faults that are suspected of being active in the Quaternary, none are expected to have an impact on the site greater than that calculated for an FE event occurring 15 kilometers from the site. Therefore, the design PHA is estimated to be 0.22 g. Features such as the Salt and Cache Valley faults, and the faults associated with the Thompson Anticline are not thought to be seismogenic.

Computer Source:

Not applicable.

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Appendix A

NEIC: Earthquake Search Results

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APPENDIX A NEIC: Earthquake Search Results

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EARTHQUAKE DATA BASE

FILE CREATED: Mon Aug 15 14:28:55 2005 Geographic Grid Search Earthquakes= .549 Latitude: 40.750N - 34.50ON Longitude: 106.500W - 112.500W Catalog Used: PDE Data Selection: Historical & Preliminary Data

FILE CREATED: Mon Aug 15 14:31:32 2005 Geographic Grid Search Earthquakes= 991 Latitude: 40.750N - 34.500N Longitude: 106.500W - 112.500W Catalog Used: SRA Data Selection: Eastern, Central and Mountain States of U.S. (SRA)

FILE CREATED: Mon Aug 15 14:30:22 2005

Geographic Grid Search Earthquakes= 64 Latitude: 40.750N - 34.500N Longitude: 106.500W - 112.500W Catalog Used: USHIS Data Selection: Significant U.S. Earthquakes (USHIS)

BOLD EVENTS ARE EVENTS CAUSED BY WELL INJECTION AND ARE NOT INCLUDED IN RECURRENCE CALCULATIONS

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Appendix B

Quarternary and Undated Faults within Expanded Site Region

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APPENDIX B:
QUATERNARY AND UNDATED FAULTS WITHIN EXPANDED SITE REGION

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Problem Statement:

Preliminary site selection performed jointly by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Contractor has identified an approximately 300-acre location in the Crescent Flat area just northeast of Crescent Junction, Utah, as a possible site for final disposal of the Moab uranium mill tailings. The 300-acre site is within a withdrawal area consisting of approximately 2,300 acres. Situated between the Union Pacific Railroad and the base of the Book Cliffs, the withdrawal area extends for about 3 miles (mi) in an eastwest direction and is approximately 1 mi wide in a north-south direction (Plate 1). Based on the preliminary site-selection process, the suitability of the Crescent Junction disposal site is being evaluated from several technical aspects, including geomorphic, geologic, hydrologic, seismic, geochemical, and geotechnical. The objective of this calculation set is to interpret stereographic color aerial photographs (including High Altitude Vertical [HAV] and Low Sun-Angle [LSA] photographs) of the area to analyze structural and geomorphic conditions that may affect the site.

Findings from this calculation will be incorporated into Attachment 2 (Geology) of the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Site Design for Stabilization of Moab Title I Uranium Mill Tailings at the Crescent Junction, Utah, Disposal Site, and summarized in the appropriate section of the Remedial Action Selection (RAS) report for the Moab site.

Method of Solution:

Color aerial photographs of an area of approximately 25 square mi, which included the proposed disposal site, the withdrawal area, and surrounding area, were taken by Aero-graphics, Inc., in July 2005. Both HAV and LSA photographs of the area were made at a scale of 1:24,000. The HAV photographs were taken on July 8, and two sets of the LSA photographs were taken-one in the morning and one in the evening-on July 27. Both HAV and LSA aerial photographs were taken in two flight lines from west to. east across the north and south parts of the site area. The photographic coverage extends approximately 2.5 mi outside of the site withdrawal area in all directions. These photographs were interpreted to provide an assessment of geologic structures and geomorphic conditions that may affect the disposal site. Standard procedures and techniques were used to perform these analyses.

Assumptions:

Not applicable.

Calculation:

None required.

Discussion:

Results of these interpretations are used to assess structural and geomorphic conditions that may affect the Crescent Junction disposal site. These results are also used to confirm and supplement other field observations associated with site geologic mapping and with fault investigation for the site and regional seismicity calculation set. These interpretations contribute toward the comprehensive evaluation of the area relative to its suitability for location of the disposal facility. Features noted from inspection of the HAV and the LSA photographs are described in the following subsections along with an explanation of their significance, if known. Also, the features are divided into two groups: those which occur on or adjacent to the withdrawal area (numbered 1 through 6), and those which occur outside the withdrawal area (a through h). Each feature was assigned a relative importance by their number and letter order. All features are shown, with their relation to the withdrawal area, in Plate 1.

High-Altitude Vertical Photographs

- 1. Paths of active sheet wash flow are shown in gray (the color of Mancos Shale) from the base of the Book Cliffs south to south-southeast across parts of the site withdrawal area. Water flowing in this sheet wash drains across the site to the West and East Branches of Kendall Wash. These sheet wash deposits are quite evident on the ground and are mapped as such in the geologic map of the proposed site and nearby area included in the Field and Drilling Investigation Results calculation set. The active sheet wash areas continue the process of deposition of alluvial mud, which may be up to 25 feet (ft) thick, covering the Mancos Shale bedrock over most of the site.
- 2. An east-trending discontinuous line of low mounds that appear as a lineament are in the SE 1/4 Section 22 and SW 1/4 Section 23. These mounds are up to 15 ft high and are capped by a calcareous, dolomitic concretionary layer that marks the top of the Prairie Canyon Member of the Mancos Shale in this area, as described by Cole and others (1997) and Hampson and others (1999). The straight line of these mounds follows the strike direction of the Mancos Shale in this area and indicates that the stratigraphic horizon in the Mancos Shale is not displaced by faults.
- 3. The incised course of the N45W-trending West Branch of Kendall Wash is well exposed in the southwest part of the withdrawal area in the south-central part of Section 27. This trend reflects the prominent bedrock joint trend in this area. No exposed bedrock has been found in the wash bottom, which has been incised to a depth of about 10 ft north of the Union Pacific Railroad. Incision of the wash appears to be actively advancing to the northwest.
- 4. In the west parts of Sections 22 and 15, the west end of the Book Cliffs terminates abruptly along a linear feature that trends several degrees east of north. This feature continues northward across Crescent Canyon into the west part of Section 10. Mapped from Landsat images of the northern Paradox Basin as a lineament by Friedman and Simpson (1980), this feature is also shown in Friedman and others (1994). The feature does not coincide to any faults mapped for the area by Doelling (2001) or Gualtieri (1988), but the trend is similar to a joint system measured in the withdrawal area in the SW 1/4 of Section 22. It is concluded that this topographic lineament or feature is likely an expression of a prominent joint system in the area trending several degrees east of due north. This feature may have influenced the direction of Crescent Wash, just west of the withdrawal area.
- 5. An abandoned wash course in SE **1/4** of Section 24 in the northeast part of the withdrawal area trends south and extends for nearly 0.5 mi. The north end of the abandoned wash appears to intersect the incised present course of the southwest-draining East Branch of Kendall Wash. From the photographs, it appears that the south-trending drainage was abandoned either by capture from headcutting of the present East Branch or by blockage of the drainage by railroad personnel to consolidate drainages and minimize the number of rail crossings. Field examination of this abandoned drainage found that it was naturally abandoned, many thousand years ago. No connection with the present East Branch exists at the north end of the drainage; the floor of the drainage is approximately 10 ft higher than the incised depth of the East Branch. The drainage bottom is wide and flat, and the depth of the broad drainage decreases from about 8 ft at the north end to nearly zero at the south end near the Union Pacific Railroad. Abundant sandstone boulders, 2 to 5 ft in diameter, line the top sides of the drainage and occur in a broad fan (expressed as a boulder field) at the south (filled in) end of the drainage. This large material more than a mile away from its source, the top of the Book Cliffs, is anomalous for this area. These boulders indicate that the drainage was one of the major ones draining the Book Cliffs, possibly several hundred thousand to 1 million years ago when the front of the Book Cliffs was much closer (less than 0.5 mi).
- 6. Several slump blocks containing sandstone of the Blackhawk Formation are along the south face of the Book Cliffs, immediately north of the site withdrawal area, in Sections 22 and 23. These slump blocks are lighter colored (tan to yellowish brown) than the typical gray Mancos Shale in the lower slope of the Book Cliffs and appear to represent erosional remnants of larger slumps that slid down from the Book Cliffs in wetter Pleistocene times. Two additional slump blocks

covering larger areas are well shown. One is north of the withdrawal area in the south part of Horse Heaven just north of the western point of the Book Cliffs (elevation point 5,870 ft). The other is northeast of the withdrawal area just north of the detached block of the Book Cliffs (elevation point 5,903 ft, which is mislabeled and should be 5,803 ft) in the south-central part of Section 13. Both of these are shown in the landslide map by Harty (1993), and the slides were likely initiated in wetter times during the Pleistocene.

- a. The head of south-draining Crooked Wash, about 0.5 mi northwest of the northwest end of the withdrawal area, bends abruptly to strike N45W and forms an embayment in the Book Cliffs in the NW **1%4** of Section 16. This trend extends farther to the northwest and influences topography, forming an elongated cliff face just southwest of elevation point 5,882 ft. Southeastward along this trend, at the northwest end of the withdrawal area, is the abrupt west end of the Book Cliffs in the NW % of Section 22. No fault coincides with this feature from mapping by Doelling (2001) for this area. The N45W trend is a common joint orientation in the area, and it is concluded that this major joint imparts some topographic control on the shape of the front of the Book Cliffs.
- b. A linear feature that trends approximately N50W appears to control the shape of the front of the Book Cliffs in the NE % of Section 13 approximately 1 mi north of the northeast end of the withdrawal area. This feature appears to extend northwestward for at least 0.5 mi into the SW % of Section 12 where it forms a low saddle on the ridge northwest of elevation point 6,545 ft. No fault corresponds to this feature from mapping of the Moab 30' x 60' quadrangle by Doelling (2001) and mapping of the adjacent Westwater 30' x 60' quadrangle to the north by Gualtieri (1988). Nearest fault to this feature is about 0.5 mi to the northeast and it strikes almost parallel at N40W (Doelling 2001). Prominent vertical joints that strike N40W were measured along the top of the Book Cliffs about 1.5 mi to the southwest of this feature at elevation point 5,932 ft. From the orientation of this joint system and faults of similar orientation to the northeast of this feature, it is concluded that this feature is a major joint that imparts some topographic control on the shape of the face of the Book Cliffs and drainages/ridges to the north.
- c. Approximately 20 small pits are spaced about 200 ft apart in an area mainly north of old U.S. Highway 50, south of the Union Pacific Railroad, and just east of the East Branch of Kendall Wash. Field examination of the pits indicates that they are about 60 ft long, 25 ft wide, and 5 ft deep. Several 4 inch by 4 inch wooden posts were also found scattered on the ground through this area. These pits were likely dug as part of assessment work for mining claims staked for gold in the late 1970s and early 1980s. This area was part of a larger area (Floy to Cisco) sampled in a study by Marlatt (1991) for analysis of gold content in Mancos Shale. He found the gold content ranged from 30 to 100 parts per billion (ppb), which is about ten times the background level, but much too low for economic extraction.
- d. Green vegetation just north of old U.S. Highway 50 occurs in washes from the area of the East Branch of Kendall Wash westward to the West Branch of Kendall Wash. This occurrence of vegetation coincides with and verifies the location of the buried (and leaking) water line from Thompson Springs to Crescent Junction.

Low **Sun-Angle Photographs**

The LSA photographs covering the withdrawal area show that no terraces or mantled pediment surfaces are displaced and no scarps or linear features are present that would suggest the presence of faulting.

e. Best-shown of all the structural features in the LSA photographic coverage area are the bounding normal faults of the graben that strikes N20W along the axis of the Thompson anticline. This graben structure is about 2 mi northeast of the northeast end of the withdrawal area. The southwest-bounding fault of the graben has the greater displacement (up to 90 ft) of the two faults (Willis 1986) and is well shown in the evening LSA photographs. The faults displace resistant sandstone beds of the Blackhawk Formation and Castlegate Sandstone, both of which cap the Book Cliffs. No displacement on these faults has been discerned where they contact the underlying, soft Mancos Shale on the slopes of the Book Cliffs.

- f. A prominent vertical joint system that strikes N55W is well shown in sandstone of the Blackhawk Formation exposed on a point on the Book Cliffs in Horse Heaven in the east-central part of Section 15 approximately 1 mi north of the withdrawal area. No displacement occurs along this joint and it is a common joint orientation exposed elsewhere in the surrounding area.
- g. An abrupt change in elevation of the terrace surface occurs just north of Interstate 70 across from the rest area about 0.5 mi west of Crescent Junction. The highest surface, at elevation point 4,995 ft near the center of Section 33, abruptly drops down 40 to 50 ft to the northwest to a lower surface. Both surfaces are covered by pediment-mantling material as mapped by Doelling (2001). It is uncertain whether the two surfaces represent two terrace (or pediment) levels or they are the same surface that has been displaced by a fault. The higher terrace surface to the south corresponds to what is mapped as Crescent Bench to the south of Interstate 70.
- h. A pediment mantled by surficial (terrace?) material (mapped by Doelling 2001) that is possibly displaced is about 1.5 mi west of the west edge of the withdrawal area. This pediment is about 0.5 mi southeast of Thompson Pass in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17. The faint linear feature along which displacement possibly has occurred could also be an old geophysical seismic exploration line because the linear feature extends to the east-southeast for nearly a mile toward Crooked Wash.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Interpretation of aerial photographs for the withdrawal area supplement what is observed on the ground regarding areas of active sheet wash, the line of low mounds indicating the top of the Prairie Canyon Member of the Mancos Shale, and the headward incision of the West Branch of Kendall Wash. A southtrending (and draining) wash course that appears to drain away from the East Branch of Kendall Wash in the northeast part of the withdrawal area represents a major drainage course that was in place several hundred thousand to as much as 1 million years ago. This drainage is not related to the present East Branch, and it appears to have been naturally abandoned many thousand years ago. Known and possible fault displacements were noted in areas near but outside of the withdrawal area, but far enough away that they do not adversely affect the geologic suitability of the disposal site. Aerial photographs covering the withdrawal area showed no features that would suggest the presence of faulting. Also, no structural features outside of the withdrawal area were identified that would be of sufficient significance to be addressed further in the calculation set for Site and Regional Seismicity - Results of Maximum Credible Earthquake Estimation and Peak Horizontal Acceleration.

Computer Source:

Not applicable.

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EXPLANATION:

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PLATE 1

