



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

April 12, 1995

Mr. Dennis Hemmer, Director  
State of Wyoming  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Herschler Building  
122 West 25th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

SUBJECT: RECLAMATION OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR CORPORATION'S GAS HILLS SITE

Dear Mr. Hemmer:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received the March 2, 1995, letter from Mark Moxley of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) concerning the DEQ plans for undertaking reclamation of American Nuclear Corporation's Gas Hills, Wyoming site. The NRC staff appreciates this information, since without current information it will be difficult to schedule limited NRC resources to properly support DEQ reclamation efforts.

During a telephone conversation on February 7, 1995, (D. Hemmer and M. Moxley of DEQ, D. Gillen and K. Hooks, NRC), DEQ stated that it may not be able to start reclamation at the Gas Hills site before the Fall of 1995. This is consistent with the dates provided in the enclosure to DEQ's March 2, 1995, letter. As stated in the NRC's September 27, 1994, letter to DEQ, the NRC will provide DEQ with timely support, commensurate with its resources and other commitments. However, this schedule allows only five months for the DEQ and its contractor(s) to review, revise, and secure NRC approval on the Gas Hill site reclamation plan, so close coordination will be vital.

DEQ also indicated in the February 7, 1995, telecon that it wished to explore alternatives to becoming a licensee of the NRC. DEQ could perform reclamation of the Gas Hills site under a Confirmatory Order from the NRC. A Confirmatory Order would provide for sufficient NRC involvement to ensure final approval of DEQ reclamation efforts. The specific conditions in the order could be agreed upon by the State of Wyoming and the NRC staff prior to the order being issued. Once the conditions of the Confirmatory Order were fulfilled, the NRC would release DEQ and would have no further regulatory authority over DEQ. However, whether as a licensee or under a Confirmatory Order, the reclamation of the Gas Hills site must be accomplished in accordance with an NRC-approved reclamation plan. DEQ should provide the NRC with its current intentions with regard to the framework under which this reclamation will be performed.

I recommend that DEQ and NRC staff meet as early as possible to discuss the options under which reclamation could be performed, and ensure that NRC and DEQ schedules are coordinated.

D. Hemmer

2

Please contact me at (301) 415-7238, or Ken Hooks, the NRC Project Manager for ANC's Gas Hill's site at (301) 415-7777, if you have any questions concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

15/

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
High-Level Waste and Uranium Recovery  
Projects Section  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: R. Chancellor, DEQ  
M. Moxley  
S. Salisbury, ANC

DISTRIBUTION w/ Encl.: Central File PUBLIC JSurmeier NMSS r/f DWM r/f  
HLUR r/f CCain, RIV  
w/o Encl.: MFederline

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DWM\HLUR\KRH\CONFIRM.ACT \*See Previous Concurrence

|      |             |          |          |                |           |      |
|------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------|------|
| OFC  | HLUR        | C        | HLUR     | OGC            | OSP       | HLUR |
| NAME | KHooks: jlk | DGillen* | RFonner* | DSollenberger* | JHolonich |      |
| DATE | 4/11/95     | 03/13/95 | 03/16/95 | 03/17/95       | 04/2/95   |      |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY