

October 2, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Keith I. McConnell, Deputy Director
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

THRU: Bill vonTill, Branch Chief **/RA/**
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: Myron Fliegel, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
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SUBJECT: DOE MOAB PROJECT SITE VISIT AND MEETING

On September 25, 2007, Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch (URLB) staff visited sites related to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Moab Project. The Moab Project is a Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Program (UMTRCA) Title I remediation of the former Atlas Corporation's uranium mill site near Moab, Utah. DOE has submitted a revised draft Remedial Action Plan (DRAP) for review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in accordance with UMTRCA. DOE has proposed moving the tailings and other wastes from the mill site to a cell to be constructed at Crescent Junction, Utah.

In addition to me, Bill vonTill, Dan Gillen, and Ted Johnson participated in the site visit. In the morning, accompanied by DOE and DOE contractor staff, we toured areas of the former mill site. We viewed the existing tailings pile from several locations, the Colorado River floodplain near the pile and DOE wells being used in an interim groundwater control program, and an area near the railroad tracks above the site that DOE plans to use to load trains that will transport tailings to the Crescent Junction site.

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We then drove to the proposed disposal site in Crescent Junction, approximately 30 miles northwest of the Moab site. We went into an exploratory pit that DOE had left open through the overlying soils that exposed the weathered Mancos Shale that the cell will be built in. We drove around the area of the proposed cell, observing the drainage and visited several stream channels to the west of the cell location, including Crescent Wash and West Branch Kendall Wash.

In the afternoon, we returned to the Moab site and met with DOE and its contractors. We discussed the revised DRAP and initial staff comments on that document, potential revisions to DOE's plans, and DOE's planned schedule. DOE intends to finalize the DRAP and submit it to NRC in March 2008. DOE requested NRC concurrence by July 2008, which would allow DOE to begin to move tailings to the disposal cell by January 2009.

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