

January 23, 2008

Mr. John C. Wright, Jr.
Project Site Manger
Chevron Mining Inc.
Washington Remediation Project
1217 West Wayne Street
Washington, PA 15301

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 21, 2007, LETTER

Dear Mr. Wright:

This is to acknowledge the information provided in your November 21, 2007, letter that clarified the source material transfer activities currently underway at the Washington Remediation Project. These activities result in the direct disposal of your source materials at the U.S. Ecology Idaho (USEI) facility. USEI is permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to dispose of low concentration and exempt radioactive materials authorized by the State of Idaho. This information provided further clarification of the ongoing activities as discussed in the meeting between staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and your representatives held during the NRC's November 13, 2007 site visit.

The information you have provided indicates that intentional mixing of various source material concentrations is being used to meet the USEI facility's waste acceptance criteria. You have determined that the ongoing source material transfers involve material containing, on the average, less than 0.05% by weight uranium/thorium, and thus constitute transfers of "unimportant quantities of source material" pursuant to 10 CFR 40.13(a). The NRC has reviewed the two dose assessments you provided, in which you evaluated the public doses for the transportation and disposal of source materials at the USEI facility. These dose assessments show that the public dose for these offsite disposal activities-is less than one millirem per year.

This estimated public dose is a small fraction of the annual dose levels that the NRC staff has evaluated 10 CFR 40.13(a) source material transfers against (on a case-by-case basis) over the last several years. Accordingly, the information you have provided and NRC's observation during its site visit, indicate that your source material Remediation Project is consistent with NRC requirements and guidance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James Webb, Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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