



Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management

April 25, 2011

OLM-CWM-2011-065

Mr. John Herrington
Surface Agent
Seitel Data, LTD
P.O. Box 208
Pleasanton, TX 78064

Subject: Request for Seismic Survey Permit #UNI101 – Falls City, Texas, Disposal Site

Dear Mr. Herrington:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is in receipt of your request to conduct a seismic survey across land which is owned by DOE-LM in Karnes County, Texas. It is our understanding that this request is for surface access to support an extensive 3-dimensional seismic survey that covers portions of three counties.

The land subject to your request is DOE-LM's Falls City, Texas, Disposal Site. This Site includes a disposal cell designed and built to contain uranium mill tailings that were remediated under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978.

DOE reviewed your request and evaluated the design criteria of the disposal cell. The Falls City disposal cell design parameters are for an earthquake magnitude of 6.1 with a maximum horizontal acceleration of 0.10g. The disposal cell is maintained to ensure stable side slopes and a grass covered top for erosion protection. For further information on the Site, please refer to Section 2.3 entitled "Site Description" in the enclosed Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the Falls City, Texas, Disposal Site.

Apparent risk from a seismic survey may be minimal. However, due to the health and safety concerns and liability issues of conducting a survey across a disposal cell containing radiologically contaminated uranium mill tailings, DOE is respectfully denying your request for surface access to the DOE property.

DOE is receiving increasingly more requests for seismic surveys at and near our disposal sites. Given the nationwide search for oil and gas with concomitant use of vibroseis sources for seismic surveys, DOE would like to request the seismic energy and wave propagation data specific to the equipment that will be used for this survey. This information can be used for future reference.

2597 Legacy Way, Grand Junction, CO 81503	<input type="checkbox"/>	99 Research Park Road, Morgantown, WV 26505
1000 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20585	<input type="checkbox"/>	11025 Dover St., Suite 1000, Westminster, CO 80021
10995 Hamilton-Cleves Highway, Harrison, OH 45030	<input type="checkbox"/>	955 Mound Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342
232 Energy Way, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030	<input type="checkbox"/>	

REPLY TO: Grand Junction Office

Mr. John Herrington

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Please contact me at (702) 295-1899 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Montaña Jr

Charles W. Montaña, Jr.
Realty Officer

Enclosure

cc w/o enclosure:

P. Brandt, NRC

L. Chang, NRC

G. Smith, TCEQ

R. Bush, DOE (e)

J. Dayvault, DOE (e)

J. Desormeau, DOE (e)

L. Kilpatrick, DOE (e)

T. Ribeiro, DOE (e)

S. Schiesswohl, DOE (e)

D. Shafer, DOE (e)

M. Miller, Stoller (e)

Project File FCT 1420.10

Property Management File FCT 1420.10