



U.S. Department of Energy

200 Grand Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

March 13, 2012

Ms. Kimberly Conway
FSME Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T8F5
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Well and Standpipe Monitoring at the Crescent Junction Disposal Site, Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project

Dear Ms. Conway:

This letter is to inform you of the results of ongoing monitoring at the Crescent Junction disposal site in Utah. The Moab UMTRA Project is monitoring four wells beyond the toe of the disposal cell and the first of four standpipes that will be installed in the compacted tailings. Monitoring of the wells and standpipe thus far has shown them to be dry, as was expected.

Here is a synopsis of our recent efforts. Four monitoring wells that were constructed in 2006 as part of site characterization were reconstructed as prescribed in the Remedial Action Plan, Revision 2, dated July 2008, to provide data regarding the possible leaching of tailings fluids into the subsurface around the cell. Wells 0202, 0203, 0205, and 0210 (see attached figure) originally were drilled to a depth of approximately 300 feet (ft) below ground surface (bgs). In June 2011, these wells were backfilled to depths that ranged approximately 55 to 65 ft bgs to monitor shallow alluvial soils rather than deep Mancos Shale.

Also in June 2011, the project installed the first standpipe in the disposal cell to monitor for potential tailings fluids. The standpipe was set in a sump excavated about 2 ft below the floor of the disposal cell, and approximately 7 ft of compacted tailings had been placed around the standpipe as of February 2012.

Project personnel began conducting periodic visits last fall to determine if water is present in any of these four wells or the standpipe. No water was present during the October 2011 or February 2012 monitoring visits. The monitoring data has been loaded into the project's environmental database, which will be updated to include any subsequent measurements. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at (970) 257-2115.

Sincerely,


Donald R. Metzler
Federal Project Director

FSME21

cc w/enclosure via email:

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