



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 23, 2013

ATTN: Document Control Desk

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Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate

Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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SUBJECT: Response to Comments –NRC’s Letter Dated May 7, 2013 Regarding the August 2012 Groundwater and Surface Water Sampling at the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to comments received in your letter dated May 7, 2013, regarding the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s review of the U.S. Department of Energy report entitled “August 2012 Groundwater and Surface Water Sampling at the Tuba City Arizona Disposal Site”, dated November 2012. In that report, which is commonly referred to as a data validation package, it was noted in the field trip report that 13 groundwater remediation wells were inoperable and could not be sampled for water quality analysis. The affected wells were not available for sample collection at that time because of mechanical or electrical failure of the extraction pumps. Ten of those wells have since been returned to service; the remaining three wells, which are low-yielding, are on the maintenance schedule.

The well pumps were non-operational during a period when the remediation system could only be operated intermittently for reasons other than pump failure. The temporary non-operation of the failed pumps will have no impact on plume control and the missing monitoring data do not represent a significant information gap.

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May 23, 2013

Please call me at (970) 248-6073 if you have any questions. Please address any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Sincerely,



Richard P. Bush
Site Manager

cc:

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File: TUB 0400.02(A)