



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

April 30, 2015

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Deputy Director  
Mail Stop T8F5  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Durango, Colorado, Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act, Disposal Site  
Decommissioning and Reclamation of the Evaporation Pond

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with section 2.2.5 of the *Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the Durango Disposal Site, Durango, Colorado, January 2011* (LTSP), the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) is providing notification to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of the decommissioning and reclamation of the remaining components of the transient drainage system. DOE-LM is planning removal of the evaporation pond and closing the toe drain in the fall 2015.

The processes for operating and closing the toe drain system and the evaporation pond were identified in the *Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the Bodo Canyon Disposal Site, Durango, Colorado* (DOE 1996). Decommissioning and reclamation of the evaporation pond will be consistent with protocols outlined in Attachment 3 of the 1996 LTSP, and the toe drain will be sealed at a point 2 feet below existing grade. The permeable reactive barrier was decommissioned in October 2010.

Closure requirements for the transient drainage system were met in 2006. DOE-LM, in consultation with the CDPHE, decided that removal of the pond and toe drain closure should be delayed until the cause of increasing uranium concentrations in well 618 was better understood. Over the past several years, DOE-LM has evaluated several possible causes for the variability of uranium concentrations in well 618; to date, there is no clear evidence identifying a specific cause. To eliminate the evaporation pond and toe drain as potential sources, DOE-LM and CDPHE considers removal of the evaporation pond and toe drain closure a prudent next step.

DOE-LM will notify NRC when the work is completed, so NRC, at its discretion, can perform a final inspection of the restored area.

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Please call me at (970) 248-6016 if you have any questions. Please address any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
2597 Legacy Way  
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Sincerely,



Jalena Dayvault  
Site Manager

cc:

D. Orlando, NRC  
M. Cosby CDPHE  
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D. Miller, SN3 (e)  
File: DUD 0505.10 (rc-grand junction)