

August 27, 2015

Mr. William Dam, Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REPORTS FOR THE RIVERTON, WYOMING, PROCESSING SITE (DOCKET WM-00060)

Dear Mr. Dam:

I am writing in response to two U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reports, the first entitled "Evaluation of Mineral Deposits Along the Little Wind River, Riverton, Wyoming, Processing Site," dated December 2014 (Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML14364A166), and the second entitled "September 2014 Groundwater, Surface Water and Hydrant Sampling at the Riverton, Wyoming Processing Site," dated December 2014. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the reports and, with respect to the mineral deposits report, we do not have any comments or questions at this time. Regarding the groundwater, surface water and hydrant sampling report, we have the following comments:

1. Domestic tap location 0814 has not been sampled for the past several sampling events because the house is vacant. The DOE may want to consider eliminating this location from the sampling regime and choose an alternate sample location to replace location 0814.
2. The derivation of the background threshold value (BTV) for uranium in surficial samples is unclear. The DOE states that the BTV is derived from the 95 percent upper simultaneous limit from the data set for location 0794 using samples collected since 1997. The BTV for uranium is stated as 0.011 milligrams per liter (mg/L) (Table 3). However, the Time Concentration Graph on page 125 shows that the uranium concentration at location 0794 has never exceeded 0.01mg/L and is typically much less than 0.01 mg/L. Therefore, it would seem that the value used as the background value should be much lower.
3. Page 39 lists results for well 431; however, this well is not listed in the work order or on the sample location map. The staff suggests DOE review the data to determine if it is in error.
4. It appears that the institutional controls for the site may not be effective, as a new domestic well (0876) was installed within the institutional control boundary without notification to the DOE. The report indicates that the DOE will evaluate the institutional controls for the site. Please provide the status of the DOE's evaluation, as the results were not discussed in the March 2015 verification report for the site.

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If you have any questions concerning the NRC comments, please feel free to contact me at 301-415-6749 or at Dominick.Orlando@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dominick Orlando, Senior Project Manager
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. WM-00060

cc: Riverton Distribution List

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Chemtrade Refinery Services
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