

October 8, 2015

Mr. Mark Kautsky, Site 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 THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DATA VALIDATION PACKAGE ENTITLED "MARCH 2015 GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER SAMPLING AT THE SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO, DISPOSAL SITE" DATED JUNE 2015 (DOCKET WM-00058)

Dear Mr. Kautsky:

I am writing in response to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) data Validation Package (DVP) entitled "March 2015 Groundwater and Surface Water Sampling at the Shiprock, New Mexico Disposal Site," dated June 2015 (Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML15247A0850). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the report and has the following comments:

1. In the "Sample Event Summary" Table 1, it appears that many of the concentration values were significantly higher than in previous reports. Suggest that the DOE review the results to determine if this is significant.
2. The "Water Sampling Field Activity Verification Checklist" states that the calibrations were performed on March 20, 2015, while the "Laboratory Performance Assessment" section states that the calibrations were performed in April 2015. Suggest that the DOE review the calibrations to determine if this is significant.
3. In addition, the "Laboratory Performance Assessment" shipping and receiving section states that 83 samples were received on March 31, 2015. However, the report states, and the sample analysis results indicate, that 131 samples were evaluated. Suggest that the DOE review the results to determine if this is significant.
4. The results for sample location 1067 were not included in the "Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Data" section and it is not clear why this sample location has been omitted.

M. Kautsky

-2-

5. The information (data points) for 2004 have been removed from all of the Time Concentration Graphs and an explanation has not been provided. It would be useful if all information was included in the Time Concentration Graphs.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice" a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

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-00058

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