



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 29, 2015

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

Subject: Response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Letter Regarding the Enhanced Evaporation System at the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in response to your concerns in the letter dated August 27, 2015, under the subject heading "U.S. Department of Energy Plan to Determine the Efficacy of an Enhanced Evaporation System at the Tuba City, Arizona Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Site (Docket Number WM-00073)". This letter references the letter sent to you July 21, 2015, that documented our intent to evaluate an enhanced spray system currently in use at the Moab, Utah Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act facility. This system was evaluated at the Moab site recently and found to be inappropriate for use at the Tuba City site because of excessive overspray. However, we intend to evaluate other similar systems for use at the Tuba City site and observe the following precautions with respect to your specific concerns.

1. Testing at the vendor facility or suitable equivalent will take place to determine system operability characteristics prior to procurement. The intent is to verify the system will operate within pre-determined design parameters and provide personnel familiarity with the system. It is also expected that the desired system will automatically shut down in the event of defined conditions including high wind.
2. Pilot testing at the Tuba City site will occur using a clean water source (i.e., a non-contaminated well) to verify the operating characteristics and validate vendor testing onsite.
3. System operability and integrated testing will occur upon satisfactory completion of the previous listed tests under the supervision of qualified individuals that will closely monitor the process and perform radiological control surveys of the area to ensure no contamination is spread beyond the controlled area. Radiological monitoring will occur continually during the testing and periodically thereafter in accordance with approved Health and Safety policy.
4. The U.S. Department of Energy will inform NRC if any contamination is spread beyond the defined control area at any time.

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September 29, 2015

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:

D. Orlando, NRC

C. Carpenter, SN3 (e)

S. Smith, SN3 (e)

File: TUB 0410.02 (rc-grand.junction)



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