



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 13, 2017

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
SEPTEMBER 2015 GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER SAMPLING AT
THE SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO, DISPOSAL SITE (Docket Number WM-00058)

Dear Mr. Kautsky:

I am writing in response to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) report entitled "September 2015 Groundwater and Surface Water Sampling at the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site", dated February 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML16120A559). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the report and has the following comments:

1. The Laboratory Performance Assessment, Preservation and Holding Times section, states "Due to a laboratory instrument failure, most of the NH₃-N and 14 NO₃+NO₂-N analyses were performed outside of the holding time" and the values were estimated. It is not clear if this has any impact on the subsequent performance report. NRC staff suggests the DOE evaluate the impact of the analyses on the performance report findings
2. The Potential Outliers Report states that there were 13 outliers but only 11 are listed in the Outliers table. NRC staff suggests that the DOE review the information in the Outliers report to determine if this is significant.
3. The Trip Report indicates that Well 1159 was dry. However, the NRC staff was unable to locate this well in the report or the site map. NRC staff suggests that the DOE review the information to determine if this is an error in reporting.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," 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 ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

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If you have any questions concerning the NRC review of the report, please contact me at 301-415-6749 or by email at Dominick.Orlando@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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OFC	DUWP	DUWP	DUWP	DUWP
NAME	DOrlando	CHolston	TSmith	DOrlando
DATE	3/20/17	3/21/17	4/12/17	4/13/17

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