



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

April 12, 2017

Mr. Richard Bush, Program 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 2016
ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORTS FOR URANIUM MILL TAILINGS RADIATION
CONTROL ACT TITLE I SITES

Dear Mr. Bush:

I am writing in response to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) report entitled "2016 Annual Site Inspection and Monitoring Report for Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I Disposal Sites" dated March 2017, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML17068A191). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the reports and has the following comments:

1. For the Mexican Hat, Utah site, the report states that the DOE is preparing evaluations of the depressions on the tailings cover and the seeps near the site. We look forward to reviewing these reports in the future. In addition, in 2015, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) staff raised concerns about possible contamination adjacent to the site and the DOE indicated that they would follow-up on the NNEPA concerns (ADAMS Accession Number ML16110A119). Please provide the status of the resolution of the NNEPA concerns.
2. For the Rifle, Colorado site, the 2015 inspection report states that, before the next inspection, the DOE will replace two warning signs on the security fence around the Evaporation Pond that were found on the ground (ADAMS Accession Number ML16068A319). In the 2016 report, the DOE states that three warning signs on the security fence were down and will be replaced before the 2017 inspection. It is not clear if the three signs in the 2016 report include the two signs noted in the 2015 report or if they are three additional signs.

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>.

R. Bush

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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 Uranium Recovery, Waste
Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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***by email ADAMS Accession No.: ML17097A221**

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DATE	04/10/17	04/11/17	04/06/17	04/05/17

OFC	DUWP*	RI*	RIV*	DUWP	DUWP
NAME	C.Grossman	M. Roberts	R.Evans	T.Smith	D.Orlando
DATE	04/06/17	04/05/17	04/05/17	04/12/17	04/12/17

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