



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 21, 2018

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Deputy Director
Mail Stop T8-F5
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Response to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Letter dated March 27, 2017, "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Review of the U.S. Department of Energy position paper on the Origin of Contamination in Many Devils Wash near the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site" (Docket Number WM-00058)

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) has received the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) comments on DOE's position paper entitled "Origin of Contamination in Many Devils Wash, Shiprock, New Mexico, dated January 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17034A048). DOE's response to one comment provided by NRC for this document appears following this cover letter.

Please call me at (970) 248-6018 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,

Mark Kautsky
2018.05.17 14:20:45
-06'00'

Mark Kautsky, Site Manager
Office of Legacy Management

cc:

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File: SHP 0115.02 (records)

Sites\SHP\12-13-17 SHP Response re NRC MDW Comments (NRC).docx



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NRC Comment: It would be helpful if the DOE outlined what area at the Shiprock site is affected by the conclusions of the position paper and where the DOE considers the boundary of Many Devils Wash to be. This is especially true for the lower portion of Many Devils Wash, downgradient of the buried escarpment, which appears to be hydraulically connected to the eastern terrace.

DOE Response: Many Devils Wash comprises the entire drainage area incised into the Mancos Shale below the terrace loess and gravel deposits, from the east fork of the wash northward to the confluence with the San Juan River. The conclusions of this position paper apply to all surface water in Many Devils Wash. Chemical concentrations in groundwater from down-gradient sampling locations in Many Devils Wash are within the range of natural background concentrations characteristic of the upper part of the wash. There is no evidence of groundwater baseflow, with a milling related signature, entering the lower part of Many Devils Wash downgradient from the buried escarpment. Chemical data for samples collected from Many Devils Wash are available in the GEMS mapping and monitoring application on the LM website.