Sale Edwards
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UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE BOX 25325 DENVER, COLORADO 80225

OCT 0 5 1993

LETTER FOR: Uranium Recovery Field Office Licensees on Attached List

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has come to our attention that some of the commercial laboratories that test mill tailings to characterize radioactive and physical properties may not have a license to receive and handle byproduct material. This letter is to remind you of your responsibilities under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the requirements of 10 CFR 40.51.

Paragraph 40.51 prohibits transfer of source or byproduct material to another person or facility unless they hold a valid license. This requirement applies to small quantities of tailings that would be sent to a laboratory for testing or to any other facility because there is no provision to exempt byproduct material from licensing requirements.

Laboratories in Agreement States, including Texas, Colorado, Washington, and Illinois, should be licensed by that State. All other laboratories should have a specific license issued by the NRC. Accordingly, please verify that any laboratories that perform mill tailings testing for you hold a valid license.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at (303) 231-5800.

Sincerely,

(Ramon E. Hall

Director

Attachment: As stated

cc:

Uranium Recovery Licensees
(attached Distribution List)

NEW MEXICO FACILITIES

Quivira Mining Company ATTN: Bill Ferdinand 6305 Waterford Blvd., Suite 325 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

UNC Mining and Milling ATTN: Juan R. Velasquez 1700 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Suite 230 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

UTAH FACILITIES

Rio Algom Mining Corp. ATTN: Bill Ferdinand 6305 Waterford Blvd., Suite 325 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Plateau Resources Limited P.O. Box 2111 Ticaboo Lake Powell, Utah 84533-2111

WYOMING FACILITIES

Bear Creek Uranium ATTN: Gary Chase P.O. Box 366 Casper, Wyoming 82602

American Nuclear Corporation ATTN: Stephen A. Carpenter 550 North Poplar Street, Suite No. 6 Casper, Wyoming 82602

Pathfinder Mines Corporation ATTN: Lee Nugent P.O. Box 831 Riverton, Wyoming 82501

Petrotomics Company ATTN: Ron Juday P.O. Box 8509 Shirley Basin, Wyoming 82615

Kennecott Uranium Company ATTN: Oscar Paulson P.O. Box 1500 Rawlins, Wyoming 82301 Atlantic Richfield Company ATTN: Ron S. Ziegler P.O. Box 638 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Homestake Mining Company ATTN: Fred Craft P.O. Box 98 Grants, New Mexico 87020

Atlas Corporation ATTN: R. E. Blubaugh Republic Plaza 370 Seventeenth St., Suite 3150 Denver, Colorado 80202-5631

Umetco Minerals Corporation ATTN: R. A. Van Horn P.O. Box 1029 Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

Umetco Minerals Corporation ATTN: Pat J. L. Lyons P.O. Box 151 Riverton, Wyoming 82501

Exxon Corporation c/o Exxon Coal and Minerals Company ATTN: Dave Range P.O. Box 1314 Houston, Texas 77251-1314

Pathfinder Mines Corporation ATTN: Robert Hopkins Shirley Basin Mine Shirley Basin, Wyoming 82615

Western Nuclear, Inc. ATTN: Stephanie Baker 200 Union Boulevard, Suite 300 Lakewood, Colorado 80228