



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

OCT 11 1979

Mr. Darrel E. Dunn
Earth Science Services, Inc.
Executec Building
1115 N. Seventh Avenue
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Mr. Dunn:

Your letter of October 5, 1979, requested information regarding applicable Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations which pertain to the use, construction, or maintenance of surface impoundments containing liquid wastes from nuclear facilities. It is assumed that your information request refers to the NRC licensing requirements for uranium mills and their associated tailings and wastes.

As a result of the recommendations presented by the NRC staff in the draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Uranium Milling (GEIS) issued for comment in April 1979, and the requirements of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) of 1978, proposed rule changes to 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 70, 150, and 170 has recently been issued (44 FR 50012, copy enclosed). In particular, the technical criteria should be noted in the new Appendix A to the proposed 10 CFR Part 40, "Criteria Relating to the Operation of Uranium Mills and Disposition of Tailings or Wastes Produced by the Extraction or Concentration of Source Material from Ores." Requirements relating to the siting, design, operation, decontamination, and reclamation of uranium mill tailings impoundments are outlined in this appendix.

Complete copies of the Code of Federal Regulations may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.D. 20402. Additionally, specific NRC guidance to license applicants on this topic is presented in Regulatory Guides 3.5, 3.8, and 3.11. Copies of these guides are enclosed.

It is hoped that this information sufficiently answers your request. Please contact Ms. Madonna Krug of my staff (301-427-4103) if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. J. Miller".

H. J. Miller, Section Leader
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

Enclosure:
44 FR 50012 and corrections
Regulatory Guides 3.5, 3.8, and 3.11

1354 173

7911190

131