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PDR
Docket
M-24

June 18, 1979

Mr. Albert J. Hazle, Director
Radiation & Hazardous Wastes Control Division
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East Eleventh Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Mr. Hazle:

Reponsive to inquiries made by yourself and other officers of the Department of Health during our meeting on June 6, 1979, I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to this office by W. A. Wahler and Associates under date of June 12, 1979 pertaining to movement of the existing tailings; the design of the tailings dewatering drains, and the timing of utilization of the criteria for migration of raffinates set forth in John Logan's letter of June 5, 1979.

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. McGrath

EJM:bmm
Enclosure
cc: Mr. Ross Scarano



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FREE EXEMPT

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W.A. WAHLER
& ASSOCIATES

PALO ALTO • WASHINGTON D.C. • NEWPORT BEACH
1023 CORPORATION WAY P.O. BOX 10111 PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94303
(415) 968-6250 • TELEX NUMBER: 348-417 • CABLE ADDRESS: WAWAENCLSA

June 12, 1979
Project MSM-102A

Mr. Ed McGrath
Law Offices
51 Monroe Street
Unibank Building
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RECEIVED

JUN 16 1979

Subject: Cotter Tailings Impoundment
Supplemental Questions from the State
on Existing Tailings Transfer Proposal

EDWARD J. McGRATH

Dear Ed:

In our telephone conversation of June 7, 1979 you mentioned that the State of Colorado has come up with supplemental questions concerning the proposed tailings transfer scheme. It is our understanding that these questions or comments involve the following:

1. How would the existing tailings be transferred say after two to three years of operations in the Main Impoundment?
2. With the tailings dewatering drains on top of the lining) operational, what keeps the acid water in the Main Impoundment from mixing with the alkaline water in the Secondary Impoundment?
3. In reference to John Logan's letter of June 5, 1979, additional clarification is requested concerning the third paragraph of Page 3. This deals with the delay in the implementation of the Lincoln Park criteria until the remedial action recommended in our October 1978 report has been fully implemented.

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Mr. Ed McGrath
June 12, 1979
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Our replies to the above questions or comments follow in sequential order.

1. If the Main Impoundment were operational for several years before it was decided to transfer the tailings without reprocessing, then a slightly modified approach to that presented on the attached Figure 1 would be required. The principal concern in this situation is that spigotting of the tailings for several years may partially fill the Auxiliary Impoundment and also create a less satisfactory base for the Divider Dike. To address these concerns, the following modifications to the procedures outlined on Figure 1 are proposed:
 - a. If and when it is decided to transfer the existing tailings without reprocessing, then spigot acid tailings along the Divider Dike alignment to create a substantial above-water beach. Construct the Divider Dike on top of this beach using flat slopes (say 3:1) to reduce seepage and promote stability. Pump any acid water in the Auxiliary Impoundment back to the Main Impoundment.
 - b. Depending on actual storage requirements and storage availability in the Auxiliary Pond, it may be necessary to extend the lining and Dike elevation beyond the Stage 1 level. However, it is not anticipated that the lining will have to be extended beyond its planned ultimate level.

Other than the above two changes, the same operational procedures listed on Figure 1 would apply.

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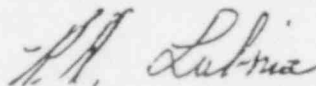
Mr. Ed McGrath
June 12, 1979
Page three

2. As shown on attached Figure I-4, the tailings dewatering drains in the Main and Secondary Impoundments are completely separate and independent of each other. The drains do not run under the Secondary Dam.
3. The basic intent contained on Page 3, paragraph 3 of John Logan's letter dated June 5, 1979 was to allow the recommended remedial action to be accomplished before we started applying the monitoring criteria in Lincoln Park. Basically, we are saying that lets pump out and clean the SCS reservoir and abandon all the existing tailings ponds (except 1 and 6) before we apply criteria to tell us if Ponds 1 and 6 need to be transferred. It is not intended that new baseline data be established in Lincoln Park.

It is hoped that the above information is sufficient for your purposes. If there are any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. WAHLER & ASSOCIATES



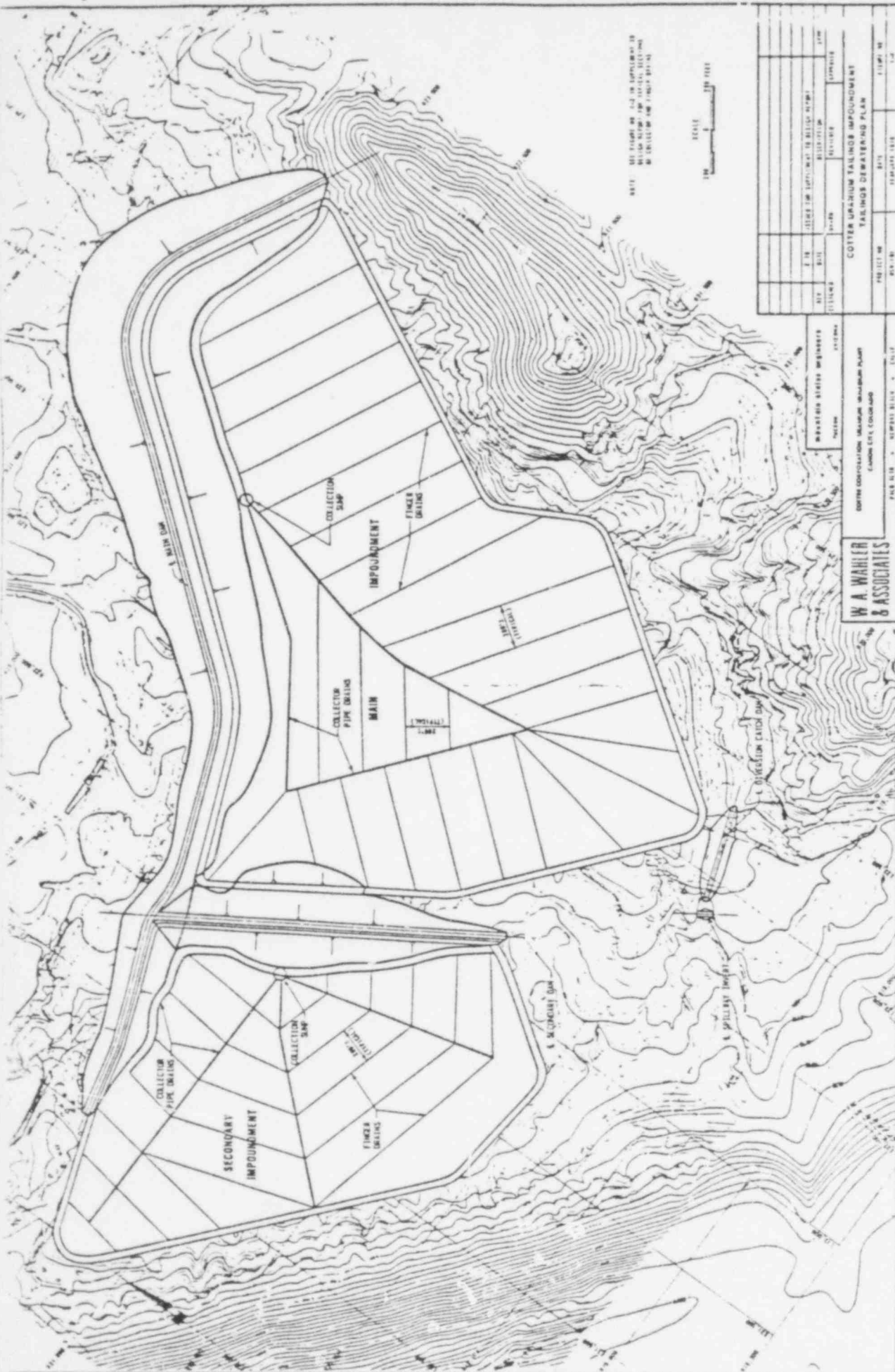
Richard H. Lubina
Project Manager

RHL/jm

Enclosures

cc: Mr. J. Pierce
Mr. J. Logan

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NOTE: SEE PLANS FOR ALL THE IMPONDMENTS TO BE LOCATED IN THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WASTEWATER STORAGE TANKS. SEE PLANS FOR ALL THE IMPONDMENTS TO BE LOCATED IN THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WASTEWATER STORAGE TANKS.



PROJECT NO.	817
DATE	DECEMBER 1958
BY	
CHECKED BY	
DESIGNED BY	
APPROVED BY	
TITLE	COTTER URANIUM TAILINGS IMPONDMENT TAILINGS DRAINAGE PLAN

WASTEWATER STORAGE TANKS
WASTEWATER PUMP
WASTEWATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
WASTEWATER STORAGE TANKS
WASTEWATER PUMP
WASTEWATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

W. A. WAHLER & ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERS
DENVER, COLORADO

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