

**Colorado
Department of
Health**

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W. A. Taylor, Jr., M.D.
Assistant Director

March 20, 1980

Robert G. Beverly
Director of Environmental Control
Union Carbide Corporation
Metals Division
P.O. Box 1029
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501



Re: Colorado Radioactive Materials License No. SUA-673 (Uravan)

Dear Mr. Beverly:

Your letter of March 14, 1980 requests a third interim authorization to discharge tailings to Pond No. 1 at your Uravan facility.

The Department will authorize the continued discharge of tailings into Pond No. 1 through May 15, 1980, contingent upon meeting the following conditions:

1. That the requirements of the Department's January 8, February 19, and February 21, 1980 letters be followed;
2. That the "Quality Control Plan for Tailings Discharge to No. 1 Pond" (as revised March 14, 1980) be followed, as recommended by Acres American, Inc. in their letter of March 15, 1980;
3. That stockpiles of free draining gravel and rock fill for emergency repair be available at all times;
4. That the freeboard on Pond No. 1 be no less than five (5) feet, unless and until the Department accepts a lesser or requires a greater freeboard height;
5. That the depth-capacity curve for Pond No. 1 (alone) be recalculated and received by the Department and its consultants before April 15, 1980;

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6. That the Pond No. 2 dike be maintained at all locations no less than its present average elevation along its full extent (and that the elevation and a depth-capacity curve for Pond No. 2 be provided to the Department and its consultants by April 15, 1980);
7. That the comprehensive report on stability and Phase II repair of the No. 2 and No. 3 Ponds (requested February 19, 1980) be received by the Department not later than April 15, 1980.

To clarify conditions 4, 5 and 6, sufficient storage must be available at all times to contain surface runoff from a probable maximum flood (PMF) series (total tributary area of approximately 50 acres; total estimated inflow volume of approximately 85 acre-feet per Dames & Moore Environmental Report and Acres American, Inc. submission of December 12, 1979). The key questions are (1) whether Pond No. 1 will store runoff from a severe storm without overtopping its dike and (2) whether Pond No. 2 will contain overflow from a break in the Pond No. 1 dike should such occur. If adequate storage is not available, this authorization of discharge to Pond No. 1 may be modified or withdrawn by the Department.

Any further authorization of the use of Pond No. 1 after May 15, 1980 will require a complete reevaluation of Pond No. 1 storage capacity and dike stability. If the additional discharge capacity authorized by this letter is projected by Union Carbide to be used up before May 15, 1980, Union Carbide should consider reducing mill throughput rather than expect further authorization before May 15, 1980. Union Carbide should not expect authorization of resumption of tailings discharge to Ponds No. 2 or No. 3 without the Department and its consultants having had several weeks minimum to review Union Carbide's proposals and supporting documents.

This authorization was provided by telephone to Gerry Schierman, Uravan Plant Manager, at 5:00 p.m., March 20, 1980. Please contact Ken Weaver of this Division if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,


Albert J. Hazle, Director
Radiation and Hazardous
Wastes Control Division

AJH:KLKW:ew

cc: A. Pearson, DWR
R. Junge, CGS
R. Person, NRC ✓
G. Castro, GEI
R. Ferriter, MSHA
K. Waesche, SW
R. Arnott, Asst. Dir., OHP

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