

TRIP REPORT

May 9, 1980
(For telephone conversation
with Steven R. Gist on 5/25/80.
JW)

40-7681

TO: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

TOPIC: 70% Inspection of Embankment #3
Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN), White Mesa Project
Blanding, Utah

REMARKS: On 24 April 80, a 70% inspection of Dike #3 (safety dike),
White Mesa Project, EFN, Blanding, Utah was performed. Specific
comments are as follows:

Dike #3

The embankment inspection of the safety dike was performed with an estimated 65-70% of construction completed. Due to adverse weather conditions, the placement of material had slowed to approximately 5000 to 8000 cubic yards per day. Inspection of the dike noted that embankment side slopes were constructed in accordance with license specifications. The clay material was examined and found to contain very little aggregate. Large materials observed in the clay material were side cast and removed from the embankment during material placement.

Examination of the density records indicated that material was being compacted with water contents (w.c.) greater than the optimum w.c. by approximately 1 1/2 to 3 percent. Records also indicated that all material had been placed with a minimum unit density of 90% of the optimum density. Density tests were taken with a nuclear gage at depths from 8-10 inches below the surface. The records revealed that several lifts were placed but failed the 90% density requirement. However, each lift not meeting minimum specifications was scarified, sidecast and recompact to meet license conditions.

8007170 335

Cell #2 Liner

Due to adverse weather conditions, placement of the PVC liner in Cell #2 had been ceased in accordance with license conditions. The leading and exposed edges of the liner were checked to insure tearing or ripping had not occurred. Also, fill placement over the liner had been halted. The cell was checked to insure vehicles had not driven upon the wet material causing possible rupture due to rut formation. The liner and cover were in excellent condition.

An inquiry was made to examine sand drain density tests. However, the tests had not been completed and the records could not properly be evaluated.

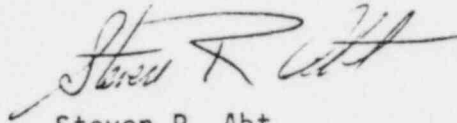
Recommendations

- 1) EFN has complied with the license conditions pertaining to the construction of the embankment. It is therefore recommended that work up to this inspection be approved and that EFN be allowed to continue construction of the embankment.
- 2) It is recommended that before final approval is rendered for mill operation, density records pertaining to the sand drain on Embankment #2 be checked for license compliance.

Individuals in attendance during this inspection:

Steven R. Abt	CSU/USNRC
Harry C. Harrison	USNRC
Ed Baker	EFN
Harold Robbins	EFN
Lynn Laws	EFN
Don Sparling	EFN
Richard Greenwood	D'Appolonia Inc.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven R. Abt

cc: Mr. Glen Brown ✓
Mr. Dan Gillian
Dr. J. D. Nelson
Mr. William Staub