

**EXXON** MINERALS COMPANY, U.S.A.

POST OFFICE BOX 3020 • CASPER, WYOMING 82602

40-8476

HIGHLAND URANIUM OPERATIONS

May 1, 1980

80-214-000

The Director  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
Region IV U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive (Suite 1000)  
Arlington, Texas 76012

RE: Report of a failure to comply as  
required by NRC Regulations 10 CFR  
Part 21.21

Dear Sir:

The following was reported by telephone to your Mr. C. L. Cain at 9:55 AM, May 1, 1980:

1. Person responsible:

J. B. Shannon, Mine Manager  
Exxon Minerals Company, U.S.A.  
P. O. Box 3020  
Casper, Wyoming 82602

2. Facility:

Mill Tailings Containment Dam  
Highland Uranium Operations  
NRC Source Material License SUA-1139

3. The Licensee constructed the Facility to the design specification and under the supervision of Dames & Moore, Salt Lake City, Utah.
4. The non-compliance is with the 7 foot free board limitation contained in Condition 22 of Amendment 8 of our Source Material License #SUA-1139.

8005230108

The Director  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
May 1, 1980  
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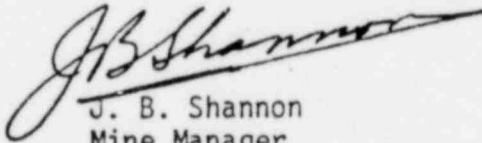
During the past winter, approximately 2½ feet of dam cap road material was graded off in maintaining the road to access men and equipment for extending and retracting the tailings discharge point for beach maintenance.

The potential safety hazard is that a possible maximum precipitation event coupled with a 50 mph wind could combine to cause liquid to flow over the dam.

5. The failure to comply was confirmed about 11:00 AM Tuesday April 29, 1980.
6. Current minimum actual free board is 5.2 feet. The dam cap material will be replaced to the design elevation (5225') commencing May 2, 1980 with completion on or about May 5, 1980. An estimated 11,000 yards of material is required. The undersigned is responsible for the action.

Should you have need for further information concerning the above, please call me.

Very truly yours,

  
J. B. Shannon  
Mine Manager

JBS:elb

cc: The Director (3 copies)  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. L. D. Hayes  
Operations Manager  
Exxon Minerals Company, U.S.A.

Mr. G. D. Ortloff  
Regulatory Affairs Manager  
Exxon Minerals Company, U.S.A.

ATTACHED IS A PART 21 REPORT FROM IE MAIL UNIT - ROOM 359E/W

PART 21 IDENTIFICATION NO. 80-214-00 COMPANY NAME Exxon Minerals

DATE OF LETTER 5/1/80 DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE DISTRIBUTED 5/6/80 ORIGINAL REPORT  SUPPLEMENTARY

DISTRIBUTION:

REACTOR(R)

FUEL CYCLE &

SAFEGUARDS(S)

MATERIALS(M)

NRR/DOR, DIRECTOR

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CENTRAL FILES - SS-396

AEOD MNB-7602

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AEOD MNB-7602

ACTION:

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF THE ATTACHED REPORT INDICATES LEAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOW-UP AS SHOWN BELOW:

IE

NRR

NMSS

OTHER

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REV. 5/5/80