

PDR 40-1341

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401
400 Chestnut Street Tower II



April 14, 1980

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Mail Stop SS 483
7914 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910



Docket No. 40-1341

Dear Mr. Scarano:

TVA has been approached by the city of Edgemont about the possibility of storing contaminated material removed from the cleanup operations in Edgemont at TVA's Edgemont uranium mill site. This contaminated material was identified in the city of Edgemont as a result of surveys performed by EPA in 1971 and in 1978. NRC, the State of South Dakota, and TVA participated with EPA in the 1978 survey. In the eventuality that the agency taking the remedial action can find no suitable disposal site, TVA may consent to receive and store these materials at the Edgemont Mill site. All costs incurred for this temporary storage will be born by the agency responsible for the remedial action. We expect the material to consist of uranium mill tailings, however, a limited amount of mine waste rock or other naturally occurring radioactive material which might have been placed at various home sites may also be accepted. These materials will be stabilized and ultimately disposed of along with the mill tailings as part of the present decommissioning plan.

We are uncertain if the scope of TVA's existing Source Material License (SUA-816) would allow such activities. Therefore, we request that NRC provide to TVA a clarification as to whether or not TVA could be allowed to receive this material under the present license. If it is determined that the scope of the license is such that these activities are not permissible, we request that this license be amended to allow TVA to be in a position to receive and store this material.

It should be recognized that the outcome of this activity would be beneficial to Edgemont for the following reasons: (1) The contaminated material would be removed from the population thus reducing the potential for adverse health effects, and (2) the contaminated material would be stabilized in a controlled area.



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As you are aware, we have been working with State and Federal agencies in a cooperative effort to try to see that this problem is dealt with promptly. However, our involvement does not constitute any admission of liability (legal or financial) on the part of TVA for the cleanup of tailings which were removed from the mill site before TVA's acquisition.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

L. M. Mills

L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety

cc: Mr. Roger Caywood
Silver King Mines
P.O. Box 49
Edgemont, South Dakota 57735

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