



STATE OF WASHINGTON

Dixy Lee Ray
Governor

April 15, 1980

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Seattle, Washington 98104



PDR

10/11-85



Jack Thompon, Resident Manager
Dawn Mining Company
P. O. Box 25
Ford, Washington 99013

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We have done an initial assessment of your environmental monitoring program based upon the documents you have given us and the recent phone conversation with Don Peterson requesting any updated information. This review does not include the proposed heap leach plant site at the Midnite Mine. A letter concerning this review will be forthcoming.

All analyses have concentrated on the two key aspects, namely ground water and air monitoring. We would like you to address the following questions and comments when we make our site visit during the week of April 28:

GROUND WATER MONITORING:

Further information is needed on the geology of the earth below the proposed tailing pond. For instance, based upon the information in your "Environmental Impact Statement" and "Application for Radioactive Materials License", the topography of the basaltic bedrock is not clear. How will it effect the flow of ground water? It appears that seepage to the south cannot be ruled out and that perhaps additional wells should be considered to supplement GW-4.

Can you supply us with the locations of the remaining drinking water wells not shown in Attachment 4.10 of the "Application for Radioactive Materials Licence"?

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AIR MONITORING

What is the present status of your five air monitoring stations? Based upon the prevailing wind directions and the sources of airborne radioactivity, we suggest that consideration be given to establishing two additional stations:

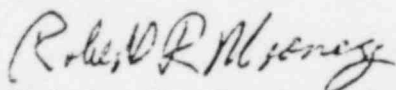
1. Northeast of the mill site near the property line;
2. South or southwest of the tailings area near the property line..

These stations would include the same type of monitoring: radon, particulate, direct radiation and soil samples.

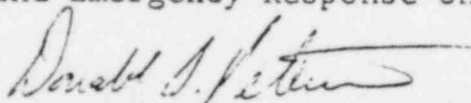
Table 4.2 of the application needs clarification regarding the sampling time and frequency for radon monitoring.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters and we look forward to our visit with you.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Mooney, Supervisor
Environmental Radiation
and Emergency Response Unit



Donald S. Peterson, In Charge
Environmental Radiation Program

DSP:RRM:hao

cc: E. Lee Gronemyer
Nancy P. Kirner
Ross Scarano

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