



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

PDR
WM-34

MAY 19 1980

Mr. Albert J. Hazle, Director
Radiation and Hazardous Wastes
Control Division
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Mr. Hazle:

This is in response to your letter dated April 16, 1980, which requested NRC's review of Union Carbide's proposal to operate pond 3 at the Uravan site after construction of a phase II-A berm which has seismic factors of safety less than those recommended by Regulatory Guide 3.11. This is a variation of Union Carbide's original proposal which we reviewed at your request.

The final results and conclusions of our dam safety review of the original proposal were contained in our safety evaluation report transmitted to you by letter dated March 21, 1980.

Due to the heavy workload in the Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch, it is not possible to thoroughly reevaluate and respond to variations in the mill operators' remedial action plans. We would expect that expertise to evaluate the acceptability of these modifications would be available at the State level.

Although I regret not being able to provide the assistance you have requested in this instance, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that we will continue to assist you in the tailings management alternatives and radiological assessments related to the Uravan Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ross A. Scarano".

Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

cc: Mr. G. Castro (GEI)

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