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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

April 25, 1980

License No. SUA-917

Atlas Minerals
ATTN: Mr. Gordon Swanby
Vice-President
6000 East Evans, Suite 401
Denver, Colorado 80222

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. J. I. Tapia of this office on April 3, 1980, of activities authorized by Amendment No. 1 to NRC Source Material License No. SUA-917, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. G. Swanby and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection and our findings are discussed in the enclosed inspection report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Within the scope of the inspection, no items of noncompliance were identified.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. If the report contains any information that you believe to be proprietary, it is necessary that you submit a written application to this office, within 20 days of the date of this letter, requesting that such information be withheld from public disclosure. The application must include a full statement of the reasons why it is claimed that the information is proprietary. The application should be prepared so that any proprietary information identified is contained in an enclosure to the application, since the application without the enclosure will also be placed in the Public Document Room. If we do not hear from you in this regard within the specified period, the report will be placed in the Public Document Room.

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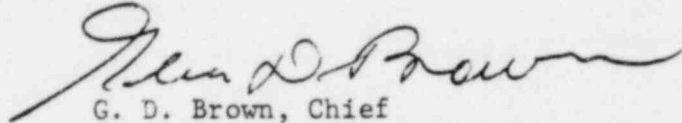
Atlas Minerals

-2-

April 25, 1980

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. D. Brown".

G. D. Brown, Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials
Safety Branch

Enclosure:

IE Inspection Report No. 40-3453/80-01

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION IV

Report No. 40-3453/80-01

License No. SUA-917

Licensee: Atlas Minerals
600 East Evans, Suite 401
Denver, Colorado

Docket No. 40-3453

Facility: Moab Mill

Inspection at: Moab, Utah

Inspection Conducted: April 3, 1980

Inspector: *J. I. Tapia*
J. I. Tapia, Reactor Inspector, Engineering Support Section

4-25-80
Date

Other
Accompanying
Personnel: T. R. Howard, NRC Consulting Geotechnical Engineer
University of Idaho

Reviewed: *G. D. Brown*
G. D. Brown, Chief, Fuel Facility and Material Safety Branch

4/25/80
Date

Approved: *R. E. Hall*
R. E. Hall, Chief, Engineering Support Section

4/25/80
Date

Inspection Summary:

Inspection on April 3, 1980 (Report No. 40-3453/80-01)

Areas Inspected: Routine, announced inspection of construction activities relative to the raising of the Moab Mill Tailings Dam as authorized by Amendment No. 1 to Source Material License No. SUA-917. The inspection involved eight inspector-hours on site by one NRC inspector.

Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

Atlas Minerals

G. T. Swanby, Vice-President
L. Jacobs, Environmental Coordinator
W. Jensen, General Manager
R. Anderson, Tailings Pond Supervisor

2. Tailings Embankment Raise

An inspection of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Dam modification, authorized by Amendment No. 1 to NRC Source Material License No. SUA-917, was performed by the IE inspector. The modification included the raising of the tailings retention dam from elevation 4046 to elevation 4058 (feet above mean sea level).

This inspection involved the observation of the completed construction and a review of randomly selected quality control test results. The construction controls and field density test requirements are delineated in "Contract Specifications and Drawings for Tailings Embankment Expansion Project, Twelve-foot Raise for Atlas Minerals," prepared by Dames & Moore, Consultants in the Environmental and Applied Earth Sciences.

The embankment lift involved the placement of approximately 293,000 cubic yards of fill material placed at a density greater than 95 percent of the maximum density determined by the AASHTO T180 Method of Compaction. The IE inspector reviewed the "Summary of In-Place Density Tests" presented in the appendix to the Dames & Moore "Report on Construction Inspection and Embankment Monitoring Program, Tailings Dam Expansion Project, Moab Mill." This summary presented the results of one-hundred thirty-six in-place density tests.

The test results indicated that the specified degree of compaction was met. Five plots of dry density versus moisture content as determined by the AASHTO T180 test were reviewed in order to define the maximum density obtainable. The weekly Dames & Moore "Job Engineer's Field Report" forms were also reviewed.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified during this portion of the inspection.

3. Impoundment Operation

Visual inspection of the impoundment system indicated adequate freeboard. Beaches in excess of the required 150 feet limit have been established on all but an approximately 100 feet long section of the west embankment. At this time, pipe was being placed in this section for the establishment of the beach.

The first three Monthly Piezometric Reading Reports for 1980 were reviewed as was the plot of the daily readings taken during the construction process.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified during this portion of the inspection.

4. Exit Interview

The IE inspector met with those individuals listed in paragraph 1 at the conclusion of the inspection and summarized the purpose, scope and findings of the inspection.