

DG/MATTHEWS/10/20

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OCT 28 1989

Mr. Mark Matthews, Acting Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
Albuquerque Operations Office
U. S. Department of Energy
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87115

Dear Mr. Matthews:

In response to your request for NRC input to the 1989 UMTRA Project Annual Status Report, I am enclosing a brief description of NRC activities completed for the UMTRA project during the period of October 1, 1988, through September 30, 1989.

Should you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact me or Dan Gillen of my staff (FTS 492-0517).

Sincerely,
(SIGNED) PAUL H. LOHAUS

Paul H. Lohaus, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning, NMSS

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Sally Mann, DOE Hq.
G. Falance, DOE Alb.

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PDR YES

PDR NO Category: Proprietary or CF Only

ACNW YES NO

SUBJECT ABSTRACT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INPUT TO DOE ANNUAL UMTRAP REPORT
* See Previous Concurrence

OFC :LLOB*	:LLOB*	:LLOB*	:LLWM	:LLWM	:NMSS	:NMSS
NAME:DGillen/jj	:MFliegel	:PLOhaus	:	:	:	:
DATE:10/20/89	:10/20/89	:10/23/89	: / /89	: / /89	: / /89	: / /89

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) - During FY89, as part of its UMTRCA Title I responsibilities, the NRC staff completed 57 review activities. These included 2 Remedial Action Plan (RAP) reviews, 3 design reviews, 9 inspection plan reviews, 2 RAP modification reviews, 20 other site-specific reviews, and 18 reviews of generic items. In addition, the NRC staff prepared 3 Technical Evaluation Reports (TERs) documenting its review of DOE's remedial action selection for the Riverton, Tuba City, and Spook sites. Inspections of remedial action activities were performed at the Lakeview, Green River, and Spook sites, and additional site visits were conducted by NRC technical staff at the Durango, Rifle, Grand Junction, and Green River sites.

During the past year, NRC staff examined ways to streamline the UMTRA Program review and concurrence process. Working together to streamline a process requiring 12 separate reviews for each site, NRC and DOE reached several agreements relative to future documentation and review: 1) DCE will prepare one document, supporting NRC concurrence in remedial action selection (design), which focuses on how applicable EPA standards will be met; 2) the NRC's former concurrence in the Remedial Action Inspection Plan (RAIP) will be incorporated into the remedial action selection concurrence; and 3) NRC review of remedial action selection will be condensed into a three-step process, supported by on-site meetings. An additional item regarding streamlining the process and basis of NRC concurrence in performance of remedial action is under consideration. In support of the first agreement, NRC prepared and issued a Staff Technical Position on Standard Format and Content for Documentation of Remedial Action Selection at Title I Uranium Mill Tailings Sites.

After NRC concurs that remedial action is complete, UMTRCA invokes Federal government custody of each site for long-term care. In accordance with UMTRCA, NRC will license DOE (or other agency identified by the President) for this permanent custody. NRC, through its Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, is conducting a rulemaking that will modify 10 CFR Part 40 to provide a general license for this purpose.

