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MP. DONNIE H. GRIMSLEY (DIRECTOR) FOLA-89-356
DIVISION OF FREEDOM CY-INFORMATION Recol 8-17-89
AND FUBLICATION SERVICES ADM.
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WISHOC

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LOCKING FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE WHILIN TEN WORKING DIVIS! JOHN DARKED

BOX 701 COPPER QUEEN STATION BISBEE, ARIZOMA 95603

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## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000 ARLINGTON, TEXAS 78011

MAR 1 9 1927

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director

Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards

FROM:

Robert D. Martin

Regional Administrator, Region IV

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED DECISION ON ATLAS SURETY PROPOSAL -- FOR

CONSULTATION

As a result of Atlas Corporation's failure to provide an adequate surety arrangement to ensure funding for mill decommissioning and tailings reclamation for the Atlas Minerals Moab Uranium Mill, the attached letter of denial to renew the license and accompanying Order is being sent for your consultation as required under the delegation of authority.

Briefly, the Order is intended to be effective immediately in order to preclude the creation of more waste at this site without a proper surety arrangement. It would accomplish this objective by denying the renewal which has been pending since 1984, during which the NRC has been trying to resolve this issue. The ordered revision to the license would prohibit any further mill operations, would require Atlas to Show Cause why they should not be required to submit a mill decommissioning plan and to begin final site reclamation within 60 days of NRC approval of that decommissioning plan.

Last November, we were considering enforcement actions on this matter (attached memo, R. D. Martin to Taylor and Davis, dated November 24, 1986). At that time, the consensus option chosen by your predecessor and the other program offices was to provide Atlas one last opportunity to conform. It was also decided to pursue this conformance through the license denial route rather than taking an enforcement action. Hence, the request under Section 2.108 was issued to Atlas on December 31, 1986, (attached).

PECUEST S61124 MEMO
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SUMMINIES PERTINENT HERE
TO (SUA 917 403453)

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