



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE  
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DENVER, COLORADO 80225

OCT 18 1986

URFO:ROG  
Docket No. WM-64

U.S. Department of Energy  
ATTN: Mark L. Matthews  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dear Mr. Matthews:

As the Lakeview project nears completion, it is appropriate to identify the remaining issues that need to be resolved. These issues have been discussed with you and your staff on numerous occasions in the past and were specifically identified in our draft Technical Evaluation Report (dTER) which was sent to you by letter dated February 7, 1986. For your ready reference, they are identified below.

1. From Section 2.2, Page 3 of the dTER.

The RAP and the DSCR do not provide a site specific discussion of the proposed disposal site and its relationship to the regional tectonics. Considering the active nature of the region, additional information to demonstrate that faulting will not adversely affect the site must be provided prior to approval of the RAP.

2. From Section 2.3, page 4 of the dTER.

No information was provided in the DSCR to evaluate the impact of geothermal activity on the Collins Ranch site. This information must be provided prior to approval of the RAP.

3. From Section 2.5, pages 4 and 5 of the dTER.

The DSCR does not discuss the Collins Ranch alternative site and its location with respect to site specific faulting, the determination of the design acceleration, or the site's relationship to the KGRA.

Therefore, the RAP should provide a detailed discussion of the site specific geology, seismology and geothermal activity for the Collins Ranch site which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- o The relationship between the regional tectonics and the site specific structural geology.

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- ° The relationship between the regional and site specific seismicity and the determination of the MCE and the resulting horizontal ground acceleration.

4. From Section 5.3, page 19 of the dTER.

The stability analyses conducted by DOE indicate that the proposed design exceeds the minimum factors of safety recommended in Regulatory Guide 3.11. In addition, the staff concludes that the stability analyses performed by the DOE utilized methods which are widely used in engineering practice and are therefore acceptable. However, additional information regarding the seismic aspects of the disposal site is necessary before that portion of the staff review can be completed. If the additional information results in an increase in the maximum surface acceleration associated with the MCE, a reevaluation of the pseudo-static stability of the proposed design will be necessary.

5. From Section 5.4, page 20 of the dTER.

The staff basically concurs with the analysis conducted by the DOE. However, a review of material properties indicates that some of the evaporation pond soils are of very low density and high water content. It is not clear what percentage of the contaminated layer, which could be up to 20 feet thick depending on required excavation depths, consists of the low density material. It is also not clear what assumptions DOE made with regard to the amount of low density material in performing the settlement calculations. This information has been requested. Until the information is received and reviewed, the settlement analysis will remain an open item.

6. From Section 5.7, page 21 of the dTER.

The staff generally concludes that the proposed remedial action should meet the EPA criteria with regard to geotechnical stability. However, a reevaluation of the pseudo-static stability and settlement analyses will be performed by the staff upon receipt of additional information requested from the DOE.

If these open items have already been addressed, please provide references to the submittals in which they were addressed.

Since the dTER was written, there have been several design changes proposed in the form of Project Interface Documents (PIDs) for NRC review and approval. The following documents our review and conclusions:

In PID 13-S-29, you propose to use B-2 bedding in lieu of B-1 bedding for the apron key trench and ditch. Based on a review of your proposal, the NRC staff finds that using B-2 bedding in the indicated locations is acceptable.

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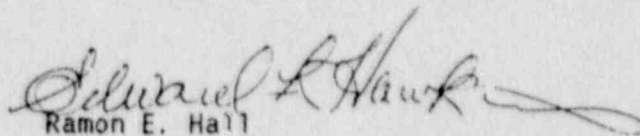
A second proposal is to provide a trench drain in the energy dissipation area of the diversion ditch. The purpose of this drain is to prevent ponding of water which could seep into the cell. This proposal is discussed in PID 13-S-30. The staff has reviewed your proposal and finds it acceptable.

As a last item, please be advised that we have not received PID Nos. 13-S-27 and 13-S-28. PID Nos. 13-S-29 and 13-S-30 discussed above have been received. However, these were faxed to us and the quality of the copies is not adequate for docketing. We therefore request that PIDs 27 through 30 be formally submitted to NRC so that they can properly be docketed in our files.

Thank you for this information as it will be required before we can prepare our final concurrence of the Lakeview remedial action.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ray Gonzales of my staff at FTS 776-2815.

Sincerely,

  
Ramon E. Hall  
Director



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