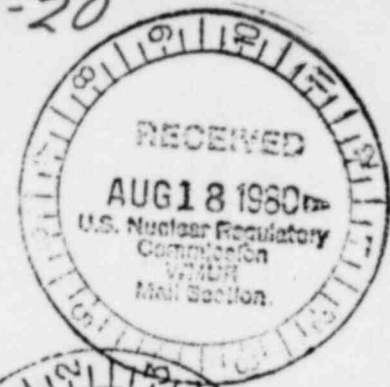


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WM-20



PIONEER NUCLEAR, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 151, AMARILLO, TEXAS 79185



STEVEN L. LANGE
Environmental Coordinator

August 14, 1980



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7915 Eastern Avenue
Mail Stop 905 SS
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Attention: Ms. Kathy Hamill

Dear Kathy:

During the review of the San Miguel uranium-vanadium Mill Project proposed by Pioneer Uranium, the purpose and function of the diversion structures associated with the tailings disposal area were discussed on several occasions. To insure that our proposal is clearly understood, these discussions are briefly summarized below.

The diversion ditch to be constructed along the north side of the tailings isolation area is to prevent runoff from entering the trenches during excavation and filling operations. The ditch is not constructed to provide any long-term protection of the reclaimed isolation area. Rather, the reclamation cover is protected by having side slopes no greater than 5:1 (horizontal to vertical) and further protected by riprap. In addition, the tailings isolation area was sited above the PMF of the adjacent ephemeral drainages.

If you need further clarification, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Lange

SLL/dlw

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FEE EXEMPT