



UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

NOV 14 1989

URFO:ROG
Docket No. 40-6659
SUA-551

Petrotomics Company
P.O. Box 8509
Shirley Basin, Wyoming 82615

Gentlemen:

As a follow-up to a telephone conversation between your Mr. Ron Juday and Mr. Ray Gonzales of my staff on November 2, 1989, we would like to provide clarification of License Condition No. 49(C) in License No. SUA-551.

License Condition No. 49(C) reads as follows:

49. C. Should complete placement of the radon barrier in one construction season not be possible, the licensee shall establish winter shutdown and spring startup procedures and submit these for NRC review and approval prior to initiating winter shutdown.

We included this condition in the license because if the entire radon barrier cannot be placed in one construction season, the portion that is placed will be subjected to freezing and thawing conditions which may adversely affect the compaction and moisture requirements of the clay. License Condition No. 49(C) is intended to avoid such a situation by requiring that in the spring, when construction activities are resumed, the in-place radon barrier will be reworked to assure that it meets density and moisture requirements.

We understand that at the present time you are constructing an evaporation pond on top of the tailings pile. This pond is being lined with clay to minimize infiltration. Once all the water has been evaporated, the clay liner will be used as part of the radon barrier provided it meets moisture and compaction requirements. At that time, final reclamation of the site will commence and License Condition No. 49(C) will become effective. Therefore, although you are currently placing clay on the pile top that will eventually become part of the

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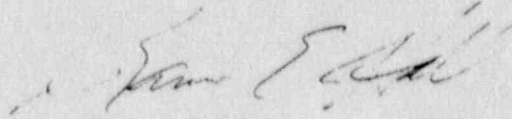
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radon cover, you will not be required to submit a winter shutdown/spring startup procedure until you commence with final reclamation of the tailings pile in accordance with the approved plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ramon E. Hall", written in a cursive style.

Ramon E. Hall
Director

6659/ROG/89/11/07/L

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