



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

OCT 26 1989

URFO: PJG
Docket No. 40-8905
04008905380E

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket No. 40-8905
FROM: Pete J. Garcia, Project Manager
SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING OF POND 8 AT THE AMBROSIA LAKE MILL

By letter dated July 5, 1989, Quivira Mining Company provided information regarding final decommissioning of Pond 8 at the Ambrosia Lake Mill. The staff review of the licensee's submittal is discussed below.

Discussion

Pond 8 was an unlined impoundment used by Quivira for storing and evaporating mill process solutions. The use of the pond was discontinued in 1983, and decommissioning of the pond was initiated in 1986 as part of the overall site reclamation plan submitted to the NRC.

The initial decommissioning activity involved cleanup of contaminated soils to levels specified in Criterion 6 of Appendix A to 10 CFR 40. The contaminated soils were placed in the main tailings impoundment. Soil sampling was conducted by Quivira to verify that adequate cleanup had been performed, and the sampling results provided to the NRC for review. As a result of the review, the staff concluded that the licensee had adequately cleaned up contamination in Pond 8 to levels specified in Criterion 6. The staff therefore authorized completion of decommissioning activities by letter dated December 28, 1988.

Final decommissioning activities included the placement of a minimum of six inches of natural soil over all excavated areas, recontouring to assure proper drainage, and mulching and seeding of the area to promote revegetation. These activities were completed by Quivira on May 19, 1989, and are documented in the July 5 submittal.

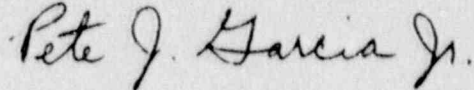
The natural cover soils were obtained from a borrow area south of Pond 8. The location of the borrow area as well as the final contours established on Pond 8 are shown on the figure accompanying the July 5 submittal. A seed mixture recommended by the Bureau of Land Management was planted using a seed drill machine. Hay mulch and fertilizer were then applied to the revegetated area.

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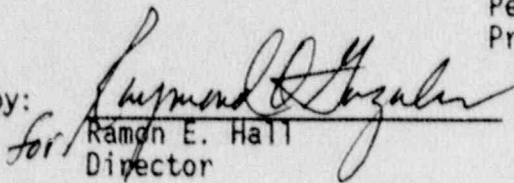
Conclusion

The staff review of the licensee's submittal indicated no areas of concern. The staff concludes that the licensee has acceptably completed decommissioning activities for Pond 8. Quivira has not requested that the Pond 8 area be released for unrestricted use, but stated in the July 5 letter that they may do so in the future. No further action is therefore necessary at this time.



Pete J. Garcia
Project Manager

Approved by:


for Ramon E. Hall
Director

Case Closed: 04008905380E

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