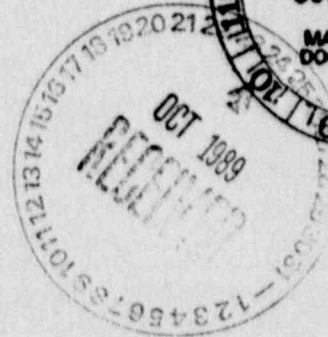
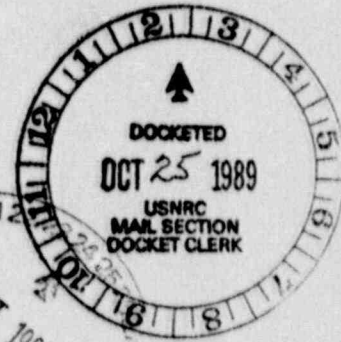


Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

WM-48

OCT 19 1989



Mr. Edward F. Hawkins
Licensing Branch 1
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
P.O. Box 25325
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ed,

For your information we are currently proposing to install a toe drain on the east side of the disposal cell at the Durango site. Specific information regarding the drain with settlement calculations will be sent within the next month. Please note that this is not a dewatering method but instead, a construction mechanism so that we can proceed with cover placement on the east side. The toe drain is designed to keep the phreatic surface back away from the east side to prevent future seeps. Therefore the installation will be permanent unless DOE decides to use another alternative that accomplishes the same thing.

We are doing everything to insure the health and safety of the environment regarding the Durango dewatering. We will continue to look at many alternatives as data becomes available in the upcoming months.

We have begun placement of the first six inch layer of cover material; therefore, it is important that we get a commitment from NRC on when NRC will initiate review of our cover design.

We appreciate your response to our concerns on these issues. Should you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Damler of my staff at FTS 846-1224.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Matthews
Acting Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

8912130342 891019
PDR WASTE
WM-48 PNU

- cc:
J. Oldham, MK-F
M. Jackson, JEG
D. Gillen, NRC
C. Watson, DOE

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By Mary C. Hood

DF02
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