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Department of Energy Albuquerque Operations Office P. O. Box 5400 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115 NOV 1 4 1989

RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

Wm-48

Mr. Ramon E. Hall Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region IV P.O. Box 25325 Denver, CO 80225

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Dear Mr. Hall:

Enclosed for your approval is PID #03-S-23. It has been agreed that the no bentonite Type C radon barrier, which makes up the first radon barrier layer, need not have its moisture content held between optimum and 4% over optimum during placement. There are two reasons for this: (1) to avoid disturbing the tailings during the moisture conditioning which would otherwise be required, and (2) so that the Type C layer will absorb excess moisture, if any, percolating down from the layers above. This moisture content range does apply, of course, for those other layers (Types A and B).

This was the intention of the specifications, when the new cover specification was written. The provision (02200, 3.5.D.2) which imposed the 0% - 4% range did not contain language to specifically exclude the Type C material from that standard. The purpose of this PID is to clarify the requirement.

This change to the specifications changes the requirements for the radon barrier, as written. As a Class I change, it requires your approval.

If you have any questions, please call Elizabeth Damler of my staff at 846-1224.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure: M. Kearney, JEG

8912130506 891114 PDR WASTE PNI

cc w/o enclosure: C. Watson, UMTRA D. Gillen, NRC

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

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UMTRA PROJECT OFFICE PROJECT INTERFACE DOCUMENT

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M. Wesely, San Francisco	(415) 442-7517	Organization MKES	Answer By:		References:
Subject					Subcontract: Subcontract No:
Type C Radon Barrier Moistur	e Content				
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