

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUL 31 1980

WMUR:EAT
Docket No. 40-1341

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. L. M. Mills, Manager
Nuclear Regulation and Safety
400 Chestnut Street, Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

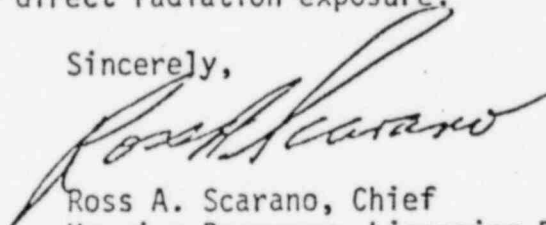
Gentlemen:

This is in response to your letter of June 13, 1980, in which you stated that TVA does not expect that doses to residents in the vicinity of the Edgemont uranium mill will be in compliance with the standards in 40 CFR Part 190, which becomes effective for uranium mills on December 1, 1980. Furthermore, you stated that you anticipate that the doses will increase during the decommissioning. Finally, you requested a variance, in accordance with 40 CFR, Section 190.11 (1979), to permit higher dose levels until the completion of the decommissioning project.

We disapprove your request for a variance. No justification of the need for the variance was provided in your submittal. A request for variance can be considered only after it is demonstrated that steps have been taken to reduce emissions and exposures to as low as reasonably achievable. A request must also contain a detailed radiological assessment of all potential exposure pathways. This information was also not provided in your submittal.

We expect that, in accordance with NRC licensing requirements, you will continue to stabilize tailings areas at the mill to prevent any release of particulates and to minimize direct radiation exposure.

Sincerely,



Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

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