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# Atlas Minerals

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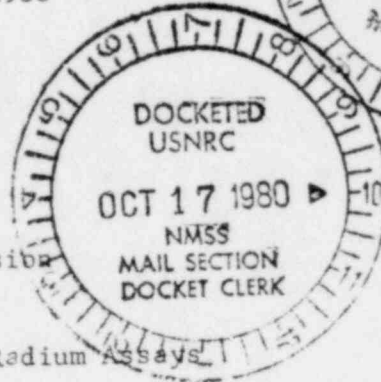
Phone (303) 751-1750

Gordon T. Swanby  
Vice President

October 6, 1980



Mr. John J. Linehan, Section Leader  
Operating Facilities Section  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 30555



Re: Radium Assays

Dear Mr. Linehan:

This letter is confirmation of telephone discussions held between Mr. Peter Garcia and myself on September 30, 1980 concerning the fourth quarter 1979 and the first quarter 1980 Atlas reports of radium assays.

Mr. Garcia was concerned about the fact that some of these readings were high, and he asked that we check our calculations. We have done this and can find no errors. The following are possible explanations for these high readings that we discussed with Mr. Garcia:

Fourth quarter, 1979 Station #1 reading,  $1.10 \times 10^{-12}$  uci/ml. During this period we were trucking ore from a stockpile to the east of the mill and the trucks passed very near the sampling station, which could have resulted in higher readings.

Fourth quarter 1969 Station #3 reading was two orders of magnitude higher than the third quarter reading at the same site, but this is explained by the fact that we were constructing the 18 foot raise and the earth moving equipment passed near this monitoring station. We have no explanation as to why the first quarter 1980 reading at this station jumped to  $1.02 \times 10^{-12}$  uci/ml.

With regard to the mpc number of  $3 \times 10^{-12}$  uci/ml, this has been used in all of the reporting to NRC and AEC for these many years. Pete stated that the number should, in fact, be  $2 \times 10^{-12}$  uci/ml. I frankly don't know which number is correct. I would appreciate receiving an explanation of how you arrived at the lower number for the mpc. In any event, the second quarter 1980 results are several orders of magnitude below either mpc number (the highest was  $.008 \times 10^{-12}$  uci/ml) so it is really an academic question at this point.

Very truly yours,

*Gordon T. Swanby*  
Gordon T. Swanby

FEE EXEMPT

cc: Pete Garcia - Dale Edwards - Larry Jacobs

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Att'l info