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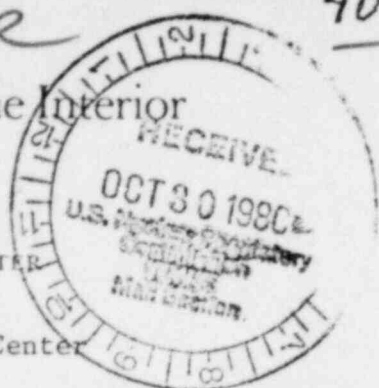


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES

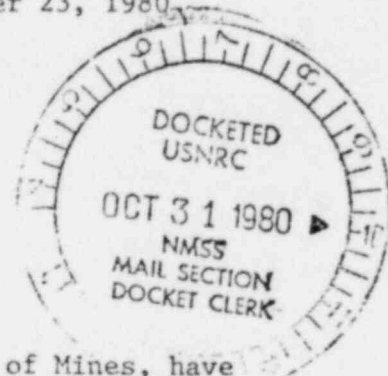
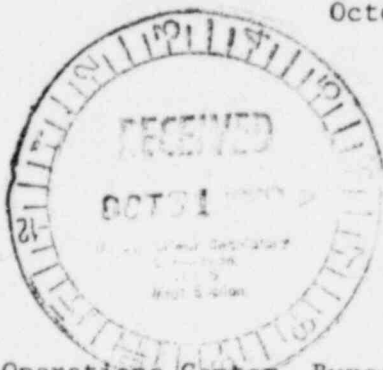
P. O. BOX 25086
BUILDING 20, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

Intermountain Field Operations Center



October 23, 1980

Ms. Kathleen Hamill
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Waste Management
Mail Stop 483-SS
Washington, D. C. 20555



Dear Ms. Hamill:

Personnel of the Intermountain Field Operations Center, Bureau of Mines, have reviewed the environmental report for the Sand Rock Uranium Mill Project in Campbell County, Wyoming, for any possible conflict between the proposed project and minerals other than uranium.

The project consists of a uranium mine and conventional mill operation in Campbell County, Wyoming, about half way between Casper and Gillette. The projected life of the proposed operation is 17 - 18 years. Production is planned to begin in the second half of 1982. Mine production is scheduled at 1,000 tons per day and mill capacity at 3,300 tons per day. Excess mill capacity is expected to be taken up by ores from other mines in the region.

Known mineral resources in the project vicinity, other than uranium, include coal, oil, and gas. The document acknowledges such other mineral resources exist in the area (pp 2-84 - 2-85). According to the environmental report (p. 2-85), a thin, high-ash, uneconomic, lignite bed would be removed with overburden from the mine. Other coal in the area is more than 1,100 feet below the surface and would not be affected. The document also states (p. 2-84) that three producing oilfields are within 5 miles of the project site, but it does not indicate whether exploratory or development wells could be drilled near the mine/mill complex.

We suggest that subsequent documents dealing with environmental impacts of the project discuss policy regarding oil and gas well drilling in the vicinity of the mine and mill. Otherwise, we have no objection to the document as written.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph B. Smith
Joseph B. Smith, Chief
Intermountain Field Operations Center

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Add'l info