PDR

United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA. 22092

In Reply Refer To:
EGS-ER-80-1021

OCT 24 1980

40-8743

Ms. Kathleen Hamill
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Waste Management
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Ms. Hamill:

We have reviewed the environmental report and notice of intent to prepare an environmental statement for Sand Rock Mill, Campbell County, Wyoming.

In section 7.0 the discussion of potential accidents lists major and minor floods (p. 7-2) but discusses only minor floods (p. 7-7). Further, the probabilities of major and minor floods are poorly defined (p. 7-3); the distinction between probable and improbable is not given in meaningful terms with the result that the definition of minor flood is obfuscated. Elsewhere (sec. 2.0), the relation between flood magnitude and probability is presented quantitatively (p. 2-142 and 143) and since such quantitative results have to be used in designing the structure involved, these results should also be used to clarify the meaning of major and minor floods. Also, the consequences of major floods should be discussed.

Flood magnitudes and probabilities were evaluated by more than one method, and the results show a considerable range in values (p. 2-142 and 143). The range is narrower for the flood volumes from the drainage areas at the site, which are most significant for designing structures, but there are still significant differences. A discussion of the results, including an evaluation of which method is most applicable to the site area and would be used for designing structures, should be provided.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Davis

for H. William Menard
Director

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Add'l info

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