



WM-33

IN REPLY REFER TO
(133)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

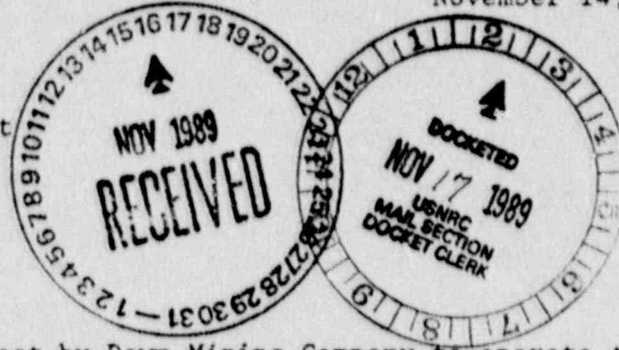
SPOKANE DISTRICT OFFICE
East 4217 Main
Spokane, Washington 99202

(509) 353-2570

RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

November 14, 1989

Michael Whitelaw, Superintendent
BIA - Spokane Agency
P. O. Box 389
Wellpinit, WA 99040



Dear Mr. Whitelaw:

This office has received a request by Dawn Mining Company to operate the water treatment plant and generate one truck load of filter cake in order to test the feasibility of extracting yellow cake. Filter cake would be trucked to Energy Fuel's mill in Blanding, Utah. See the attached letter dated November 10, 1989.

We will be contacting your office today, November 14, 1989, to arrange a meeting time to discuss the details of this proposal. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Sinclair

acting for

Joseph K. Buesing
District Manager

Attachment

- cc: Joe Flett, Spokane Tribe
- Ortencia Ford, Allottee
- Laurie Villegas, Allottee
- Dave Ragsdale, EPA
- Eric Hoffman, BLM
- Bob Kievet, EPA
- Ray Hall, NRC
- Bob Nelson, DMC
- Colleen Kelly, Regional Solicitors Office

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PDR WASTE
WM-33 PDC

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By Mary C. Ford

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90-0120

DAWN MINING COMPANY
PO BOX 280
FORD, WASHINGTON 99013

RECEIVED
NOV 13 1989
Bureau Of Land Management
Spokane, Wa.

November 10, 1989

Kelly Courtright
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
BLM - Spokane District Office
East 4217 Main
Spokane, WA 99202

Dear Kelly:

As we have discussed recently, Dawn Mining Company is exploring the possibility of extraction of the uranium from the mine treatment plant sludge for its commercial value.

We have sent samples to Energy Fuels in Blanding, Utah for feasibility testing in their lab and have also sent a sample to an independent commercial laboratory for extraction tests.

The tests that Energy Fuels did were apparently successful and they would now like to do a larger scale test. They have requested that we send them a truck load of the filter cake for processing and extraction tests in their mill.

We are hereby requesting authorization to ship a truckload of filter cake to Energy Fuels for such testing.

The filter cake would be taken as produced from the centrifuge discharge conveyor belt at approximately 13% solids, and dropped directly into a transport vehicle that complies with 49CFR 173.425(c)(2)(ii) for bulk shipments of LSA liquids. There would be no attempt to dry the cake for this test. It is calculated that the truckload would contain approximately 43 pounds of uranium oxide and be shipped under the "Radioactive LSA" placard as per 49CFR 173.389(c)(1).

The plant effluent would be discharged to the eastern drainage, but could be recycled into Pit 3 as it is currently set up to do. However, this would be an excellent opportunity to observe the plant in full scale operation if we were allowed to discharge as per design.

This project would probably take place sometime in early December, as the transport vehicle that we have located would not be available until December 1st.

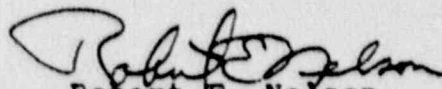
Kelly Courtright
November 10, 1989
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Please contact interested parties, such as the Spokane Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and respond as soon as possible as weather could play an important part in the timing of this project. I have informed the State, Department of Health, Office of Radiation Protection (DOHORP) of this proposed action.¹

A plan such as this could be of great benefit to all parties as it would allow operation of the treatment plant and provide a non-controversial disposal application for the filter cake.

Sincerely,

DAWN MINING COMPANY



Robert E. Nelson
Operations Superintendent

REN/dc

¹. The DOHORP has not responded officially to my letter of March 17, 1989 asking for a modification to our license to allow us to dispose of the filter cake in the tailings pond at the mill, but unofficial discussion makes the proposal appear unlikely.