



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

FEB 12 1990

URFO:GRK
Docket No. 40-8903

MEMORANDUM FOR: Russell Wise, Allegation Coordinator
Region IV

THROUGH: Ramon E. Hall
Director

FROM: Gary R. Konwinski
Project Manager

SUBJECT: SPECIAL INSPECTION FINDINGS AT THE HOMESTAKE MILL IN
RELATION TO ALLEGATION NUMBER RIV-90-A-0006

A special inspection was conducted by Gary Konwinski on February 6, 1990. The complete findings of this inspection are detailed in the Homestake inspection report 40-8903/9001. During the inspection, three allegations were explored; one was substantiated, the other two were not.

The initial allegation indicated that a scavenger ditch located near the precipitation building, routinely carries byproduct materials to a point where they are pumped to the tailings impoundment. It was alleged that on July 28, 1989, this area flooded and released byproduct materials to other areas on the Homestake site. A records review of the tailings management system inspections, as well as interviews of various Homestake employees, could not verify this situation.

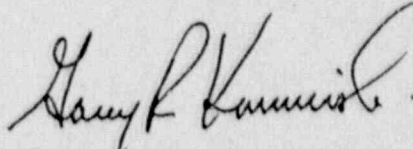
The second allegation discussed the types of solutions that were discharged to the brine evaporation pond. Inspection findings indicate that three waste streams are routinely discharged to this pond: backwash from the ion exchange facility, spent brine and backwash from the main water softeners, and barren solution from the low sodium extraction; all of which are permitted by Source Material License SUA-1471. Due to this, the water has a high likelihood of having radionuclide content. Samples were taken to verify the constituent content of the solution. The allegation that byproduct wastes are discharged to this pond was substantiated; however, it is permitted by license condition.

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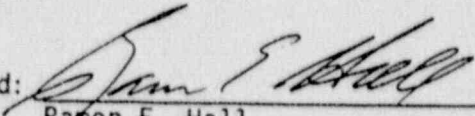
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The third allegation states that various wastes have been buried in mill ponds. A records review and interviews of several employees could not substantiate this allegation.



Gary R. Konwinski
Project Manager

Approved: 

Ramon E. Hall
Director

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File 40-8903

PDR/DCS

URFO r/f

ABBeach, RIV

LLO Branch, LLWM

GKonwinski RCPD, NM

CONCURRENCE:

DATE:

GKonwinski/URFO/1v

GRK

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EHawkins/URFO

EH

REHa11/URFO

REH

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