



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
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DENVER, COLORADO 80225

FEB 5 1990

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MEMORANDUM FOR: WM-67 Docket File
FROM: Joel Grimm, Project Manager
SUBJECT: MEETING NOTICE AND SITE VISIT TRIP REPORT

January 24, 1990

Michael Abrams, DOE, and Kent Bostick, TAC, conducted a briefing on the geology and hydrostratigraphy underlying the Ambrosia Lake tailings site. The briefing also included a description DOE's rationale for applying supplemental standards to this site. For the most part, the briefing was an elaboration on the Remedial Action Plan.

The uppermost aquifer at the site occurs in the alluvium and weathered Mancos Shale. This aquifer is hydraulically connected to a sandstone member known as the Tres Hermanos unit C. The water table was induced by infiltration from arroyos where mine water was discharged, from mill make-up water storage ponds, and from the tailings impoundment. DOE proposes to apply for Supplemental Standards for this aquifer because: (1) the alluvial and Tres Hermanos C aquifers yield insignificant ground-water, (2) the aquifers no longer are recharged, and (3) the remedial action design for the tailings pile will limit future infiltration of water through the tailings, and will provide long-term stability for the pile. DOE recommends narrative standards only for the site, without numeric limits, point of compliance, ground-water restoration, nor monitoring.

January 25, 1990

On my visit to the Ambrosia Lake site, I was accompanied by John Briggs, MKE construction engineer. The visit was combined with a weekly site inspection by Larry Patrick, Chem-Nuclear health physics manager.

The tailings pile shows evidence of considerable erosion and does not have an interim cover. MKE has mobilized at the site, constructing site drainage controls, a runoff evaporation pond, and access control. All of the standing water was removed from atop the tailings pile and disposed of in the lined evaporation pond. The mill facilities are completely demolished. Debris has been segregated into numerous piles for future disposal in the tailings pile or

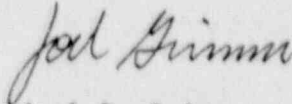
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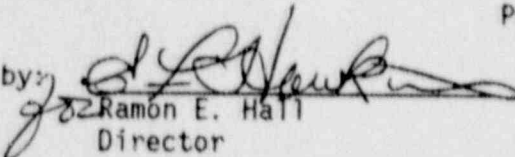
a proposed separate trench. Asbestos debris has already been disposed of in the tailings pile.

My visit concluded with a trip to a proposed borrow source for erosion protection materials. The site is a rock quarry developed by the U.S. Forest Service for road bed materials. The quarry is developed in the upper portions of a basalt mesa associated with the Mt. Taylor volcanic field. The uppermost basalts are vesicular and deeply weathered. DOE proposes to enlarge the quarry, using only deeper rocks which are more dense and unweathered. Unsuitable materials will be segregated and stockpiled for the Forest Service.



Joel P. Grimm
Project Manager

Approved by:



Ramón E. Hall
Director

AMB TRIP REPORT/1/24/90

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