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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 20 1981

WM: 33
WMUR: DMG

Ms. Nancy Kirner
Radioactive Materials Licensing
Department of Social & Health Services
P.O. Box 1788
Olympia, Washington 98504

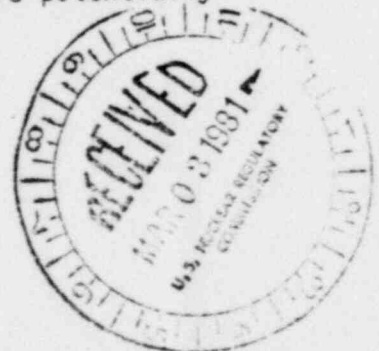
Dear Ms. Kirner:

Based on your January 28, 1981, telephone conversation with J. Linehan and D. Gillen of my staff, we have developed a schedule for our effort in the Dawn Mill license renewal assessment.

You have indicated that you will require Dawn to submit by March 15, 1981, two outstanding items of information which are necessary for NRC's assessment. These items are: (1) a revised report detailing the reclamation plans for the above grade tailings impoundments as they tie into the reclamation of the below grade pit; and (2) additional information for use in the final radiological assessment.

Based upon our ongoing review of data provided by Dawn Ming Company and upon information provided in a November 15, 1980 report by M. S. Robinette, J. E. Underwood, and R. E. Williams, entitled "Electrical Resistivity Investigations at the Dawn Tailings Disposal Site," we have concluded that further studies are necessary to clearly define the groundwater regime at the Dawn site. The present information supplied by Dawn has failed to examine the potential existence of seepage in sand layers within the clay stratum beneath the upper aquifer. Also existing studies have failed to delineate the plume and sample the groundwater in the area between the Dawn property boundary and the points of seepage emergence along Chamokane Creek.

The additional studies should be based in part upon the existing deep electrical resistivity soundings and supporting vertical electrical sections so as to delineate all anomalies that could indicate groundwater contamination from tailing pond seepage. Also, additional groundwater monitoring wells should be installed on the land between the Dawn property boundary and the area where seepage emerges along Chamokane Creek. The wells should be installed such that the entire potentially



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Ms. Kirner:

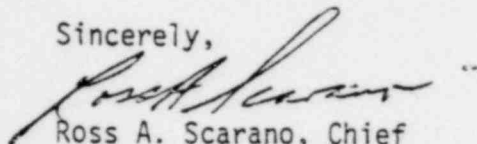
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contaminated section is monitored within the boundaries of the seepage plume indicated by the existing resistivity survey. We estimate that a field program of this scope would take approximately two weeks and therefore, we request that April 30, 1981, be set as the target date for submittal of the final groundwater studies.

Assuming that the above submittal deadlines of March 15 and April 30, 1981, are met, we have set June 1, 1981, as the target date for completion of our assessment for the Dawn Mining Company license renewal draft environmental statement. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. D. Gillen of my staff at (301) 427-4088.

Sincerely,



Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management