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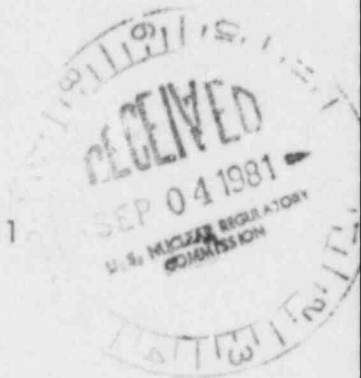
AUG 26 1981

Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. C. E. Baker
Licensing and Safety Director
Three Park Central, Suite 900
1515 Arapahoe
Denver, Colorado 80202

Gentlemen:

Mill File
IE&HQ(2)
DGillen
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HJPettengill
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REBrowning
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Docket



We have reviewed your submittal supporting a request for amendment of Source Material License No. SUA-1358 to enlarge the tailings system at the White Mesa Uranium Mill. Based on this review we have identified the need for additional information regarding the construction of Cell 3 and Cell 3 safety dike (Cell 4 dike). Information pertaining to the following items should be submitted no later than September 25, 1981, for NRC review:

1. It is likely that the Cell 2 safety dike (Cell 3 dike) has become covered with some vegetation since its completion. Provide a discussion of procedures for vegetation removal prior to placement of the liner subgrade.
2. During the recent site visit to inspect the Cell 1 construction, a copy of Staff Technical Position WM-8101, "Design, Installation, and Operation of Natural and Synthetic Liners at Uranium Recovery Facilities" was presented to you. This technical position details certain changes in NRC requirements regarding liners and leak detection systems. Based on Section 3.5 of this document, provide information regarding a proposed leak detection system for Cell 3. In particular, provide permeabilities of the base rock and the sand material to be used as the smooth subgrade under the liner. The sand subgrade can be used as a layer to transmit potential leaks to a system of perforated pipes. It is desirable that the sand layer have a permeability of at least two orders of magnitude greater than the permeability of the rock base. If a perforated pipe network is not practical, alternate proposals will be considered.

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3. Coarse tailings material obtained from Cell 2 is proposed for use as the liner cover material in Cell 3. Provide a discussion of methods to be used to eliminate blowing of that portion of the cover that will be exposed to periods of drying.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact Mr. Daniel Gillen of my staff at (301) 427-4038.

Original Signed by:

D. E. Martin

Dan E. Martin, Section Leader
New Facilities Section

Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

LIST:

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| DATE : | 08/21/81 : | 8/26/81 : | : | : | : | : | : |