

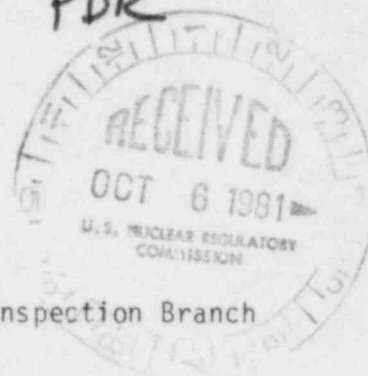
Return to: WMUR 461-55

Docket 40-3453

PDR

SEP 21 1981

Docket No. 40-3453



MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Glenn Brown, Chief, Technical Inspection Branch
Region IV

FROM: H. J. Pettengill, Section Leader
Operating Facilities Section II
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: ATLAS MINERALS

It has come to my attention that Atlas Minerals intends to modify their respiratory protection program. In a letter from R. E. Blubaugh, Atlas Minerals, to P. Garcia, NRC, dated July 22, 1981, Atlas Minerals submitted a modification to their respiratory protection program. This change was initiated because of recent complaints from employees about the discomfort involved when wearing full face cartridge type respirators in the hot summer temperatures.

Atlas Minerals intends to change from a full face cartridge type respirator to the Airstream High Efficiency Air Purifying System (Model AH-3) by Racal Airstream, Inc. This device has been approved by NIOSH and MSHA, however they do not assign a protection factor. The licensee intends to use a protection factor of 1000 for exposure calculations with the use of this respirator.

The Office of Standards Development (OSD) of the NRC does not feel that this helmet type respirator fits into any one category described in Regulatory Guide 8.15. In recent independent studies on this device, the results demonstrated protection factors varying from 20-3000. The Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory is currently evaluating this respirator and the results of this evaluation shall be available within one month. Until the completion of that study, OSD and WMUR cannot assign a protection factor to the use of this specific respirator.

The licensee was informed of these findings in a September 1, 1981 telephone conversation between R. E. Blubaugh, Atlas Minerals and P. Garcia, NRC. The

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Mr. Glenn Brown

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contents of this letter were discussed in a September 3, 1981 telephone conversation between C. Cain, of your staff and S. Jones of mine.

Original Signed By:

H. J. Pettengill, Section Leader
Operating Facilities Section II
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

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RAScarano

REBrowning

JB Martin

SJones

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