



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

ACNWR-1036
PDR

May 31, 1990

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Carr:

SUBJECT: FINAL STAFF TECHNICAL POSITION ON THE DESIGN OF EROSION
PROTECTION COVERS FOR STABILIZATION OF URANIUM MILL
TAILINGS SITES

During its 20th meeting, May 24-25, 1990, the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste met with members of the NRC staff for a briefing on and a discussion of the referenced Final Draft Technical Position.

We are pleased with the modifications included in this draft in response to our October 18, 1989 comments on the draft Technical Position, as well as in response to public comments received by the NRC staff. We believe that this Technical Position will be helpful to applicants and licensees in designing erosion protection covers for uranium mill tailings sites so as to meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 40, Appendix A for Title II (Active) sites and 40 CFR Part 192 for Title I (Inactive) sites. Specifically, the staff recommendations aid in defining the concept of "reasonable assurance" as set out in the regulations and provide a consistent basis for site-specific designs and reviews.

We understand that this Technical Position is limited to guidance regarding erosion protection; it does not provide comprehensive guidance on other aspects of the EPA Standards and NRC regulations.

As a result of our review, we have recommended to the staff several specific areas where clarification is needed, consistency of terms would be useful, and placement of statements could be employed to improve the general use and understanding of this Technical Position.

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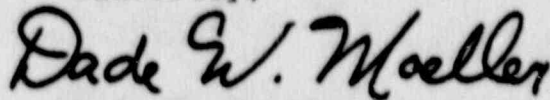
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The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr 2

May 31, 1990

We believe that the Technical Position, contrary to several public comments as discussed in Appendix 4.1 (page E-4), is not too conservative and is in accordance with the NRC Uranium Mill Tailings Management Position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dade W. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dade W. Moeller
Chairman

Reference:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Final Staff Technical Position, Design of Erosion Protection Covers For Stabilization of Uranium Mill Tailings Sites," May 1990.