

# STATE OF COLORADO

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado*

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. Laboratory Building  
Denver, Colorado 80222-1530 4210 E. 11th Avenue  
Phone (303) 692-2000 Denver, Colorado 80220-3716  
(303) 691-4700



Roy Romer  
Governor

Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

May 3, 1993

Mr. Steven C. Hamp  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87115

Dear Mr. Hamp:

We recently received the DOE's responses to our comments on the final Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Gunnison site. As you know, we are delaying our final concurrence on the RAP until the resolution of the open issue regarding contamination of the subpile soils. We realize that the DOE is working towards timely resolution of this issue, and we appreciate your attention to this matter. Since concurrence on the final RAP has not been obtained, DOE has requested a letter from the State of Colorado, in accordance with Section II.C.3.c of the Cooperative Agreement, approving the commencement of the tailings haul activities. We approve the commencement of the tailings haul contingent upon the requirement that backfilling of the processing site not take place until the open issue is resolved. This is due to our concern that the subcontractor may wish to backfill the excavation at the processing site prior to our concurrence on the excavation depth.

We have determined that the responses to our remaining comments are satisfactory, with the exception of the issue of monitoring for Lead-210 at the disposal site. We acknowledge that the isotope Lead-210 is not a specifically listed hazardous constituent. However, since elemental Lead is listed, we believe that if Lead-210 is found in the tailings, and may potentially cause a risk to human health or the environment, monitoring for Lead-210 is valid. We are willing to defer this issue until after the potential risks posed by Lead-210 at the Gunnison Processing site have been determined in the revised risk assessment. If the risk assessment identifies impacts resulting from Lead-210, we will request that monitoring at the disposal cell include Lead-210 in the future. If you have any questions, please contact me at (303) 692-3387, or Wendy Naugle at (303) 692-3394.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Deckler  
UMTRA Program Manager

cc: John Surmier, NRC  
John Innis, MK-F

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