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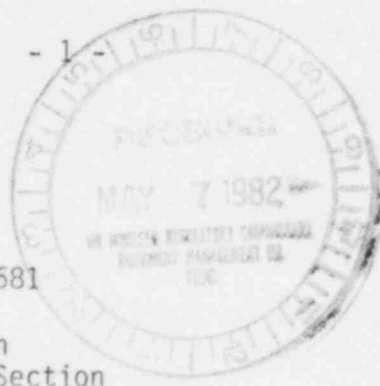
Docket

40-8681

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WMUR:DMG

Docket No. 40-8681

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket No. 40-8681

FROM:

Daniel M. Gillen

New Facilities Section

Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

Division of Waste Management

SUBJECT:

REVIEW OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE
1ST-HALF 1981 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT FOR THE
ENERGY FUELS NUCLEAR WHITE MESA MILL

Based on a review of an Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) semi-annual environmental monitoring report (1st-half 1981), the Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch staff transmitted a list of items requiring additional response to EFN by letter dated October 28, 1981. EFN's response to the items was submitted by letters dated November 12, 1981 and December 3, 1981, and has been reviewed as follows:

Item a - EFN has complied with the staff's recommendation to change the nearest residence air sampling location to a residence located approximately the same distance from the mill as the residence previously being monitored, but in a more prevailing wind direction.

Item b - Missing Radon-222 monitoring data, requested in the October 28, 1981 letter, was provided by EFN and reviewed by the staff as part of the assessment conducted for the White Mesa mill expansion. The data was found to be in excess of unrestricted maximum permissible concentrations (MPC's) at all locations. However, subsequent telephone discussions with EFN personnel uncovered errors in the methods used to calibrate equipment and calculate concentrations, and therefore the data was determined to be of no value. A new system of passive radon monitors has been subsequently placed into operation by EFN.

Item c - In accordance with License Condition No. 38 of the White Mesa license, and the staff's comment in the October 28, 1981 letter, EFN has taken steps to modify their stack monitoring to include sampling of the two sample plant ore crusher stacks.

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Item d - The staff requested that groundwater monitoring data be supplied for wells (within 2 km of the tailings) used to obtain water for drinking, livestock or crops. EFN has replied that contrary to information presented in Plate 2.6-3 of the White Mesa environmental report, there are presently no wells within 2 km used for these purposes. One of EFN's wells for process water will soon be put into use for human consumption at the mill. When this begins, EFN intends to include this well in their groundwater monitoring program.

Item e - As directed by the licensed groundwater monitoring program and the October 28, 1981 letter, EFN has submitted a comparative chemical analysis of the background groundwater and the tailings liquid and based on the analysis has proposed a revision of the groundwater monitoring program. This submittal is being reviewed as part of separate action, (i.e. amendment of the groundwater monitoring program.)

Item f - In accordance with the staff's request, EFN has submitted a compilation of preoperational monitoring data that had never been submitted to the NRC.

As stated above, EFN has satisfactorily responded to all outstanding items from the staff's review of the 1st-half 1981 environmental monitoring report.

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Daniel M. Gillen, Project Manager
New Facilities Section
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

cc: C.E. Baker, EFN

Case Closed: (04008681110E)

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