

ARCO

Bluewater Mill
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Grants, New Mexico 87020
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October 25, 1993

Mr. Ramon Hall
Unites States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV
730 Simms Street
Suite 100
Golden, Colorado 80401

Re: License No. SUA-1470
Docket No. 40-8902
Consolidation Report

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RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

Dear Mr. Hall:

Enclosed is ARCO's report addressing consolidation in the slimes portion of the main tailings impoundment at the Bluewater Mill Site. The report concludes that consolidation caused by the placement of fill over the slimes portion of the main tailings impoundment is at least 90% complete and that placement of radon barrier in this area can commence.

This report presents the results of programs performed to determine the consolidation of the tailings and the methods used to accelerate the consolidation in rates in areas of thick slimes. The settlement data for monitoring consolidation and evaluation of that data is also contained in this report.

ARCO is requesting authorization to place radon barrier material over the fill on the slimes portions of the main tailings impoundment. Approval of this request, in conjunction with ARCO's August 19, 1993 request to cover the regraded sand tailings, would allow the construction of radon barrier over the entire top surface of the impoundment. The radon barrier will be placed in accordance with the specifications in our approved reclamation plan and its amendments.

Your approval of the consolidation report will allow us to proceed with placement of radon barrier. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me or Christopher Sanchez of my staff at (505)876-2211.

Sincerely,

R. S. Ziegler
Project Manager

/jmn

pc: CS
SP

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Certified By Mary C. Hood

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