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Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115



PDR
Return
396-55

WM-72



Mr. Ross A. Scarano
Chief, Uranium Recovery License Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station 483-SS
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Scarano:

Enclosed is the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Spook tailings site. The preliminary design assumed for the remedial action in this EA is intended to produce bounds to the actual impacts of the project; i.e., to estimate the impacts on the high side when there is uncertainty about them. Because the final EPA standards were not available during the preparation of the EA, the design is based primarily on the interim standards, with the realization that the final standards are likely to be different. When the final standards become available, the document will be revised accordingly.

The use of the interim standards, however, has generally satisfied the requirement that the document bound the impacts conservatively. For this reason, the revision for the final standards is expected to produce no order-of-magnitude changes in the predictions of the impacts. The final standards will not require changes in the methods of analysis, the basic design of the remedial action, or the structure of the document itself.

Although this draft EA is therefore not quite final, it is being forwarded for review now because it is the predecessor of 13 similar EA's. Your review and comments on the document will be factored into the preparation of the remaining EA's.

Your comments are requested by August 31, 1982. Please refer any questions that you may have to Mark L. Matthews of my staff.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Campbell
Richard H. Campbell, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

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PDR WASTE
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Enclosure

cc w/o enclosure:
M. Merritt, 9514, SNLA

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