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MEMORANDUM FOR: Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Low-Level Waste Licensing Branch

FROM: Kathleen J. Hamill, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Section
Low-Level Waste Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT - DOE MEETING ON GRAND JUNCTION AND
RIFLE SITES

Place and Date

November 4, 1982: Ramada Renaissance - Denver, CO.

Participants

NRC - K. Hamill
R. Scarano

NUS (DOE contractor) - D. Goldberg

CDH - A. Hazle
D. Gamewell

Golder & Assoc. (DOE contractor) - B. Dody

Jacobs Engineering (DOE contractor) - Chris Timm

Colorado Geological Survey - R. Junge
P. Rogers

Colorado Mines Land Reclamation - D. Shelton

Governer's Office - Mary Whitman

DOE - J. Themilus
S. Woodbury

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Sandia - Mel Merrit
Don Diego Gonzales

Other attendees included representatives of:

- Water Resources Division
- Water Quality Division
- Grand Junction Citizen Task Force
- Rifle Citizen Task Force

Background and Summary

The purpose of the meeting was for the DOE to present to various interested State agencies and the NRC the conclusions of their study addressing the feasibility of in-place stabilization for the uranium mill tailings at the Grand Junction, Old Rifle and New Rifle sites. The conclusion of the study was that all three sites could be cleaned up and stabilized in place by demonstrated techniques in such a way that the EPA standards could be met. (For purposes of the DOE analysis it was assumed that the EPA standards would be those which are currently being reviewed by OMB.)

The feasibility criteria considered were:

- reduce radon to 20 pCi/m²-sec
- provide isolation and stabilization for 200-1000 yrs
- site must be able to accomodate all materials within designated boundaries
- stabilization must be accomplished by demonstrated techniques

The meeting was conducted in an informal manner with DOE and its contractors making rather detailed presentations on site descriptions and conceptual stabilization designs. State agency and NRC personnel frequently interrupted with questions as the presentations progressed. The majority of the discussion centered around groundwater protection and long term stability, more specifically, the potential catastrophic or chronic effects of stream meandering.

Questions raised throughout the course of the discussion revealed a major deficiency in the stabilization-in-place report in terms of geomorphic considerations.

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Thus, although one of the purposes of the meeting had been to discuss and try to reach agreement on the appropriate course of NEPA documentation, it was decided that further analysis was required before any determination could be made as to whether a preferred course of remedial action existed. Further, despite the recognition that the consideration of alternatives need not vary from an environmental assessment to an environmental impact statement, the State expressed their view that given the sensitive nature of this problem, particularly in the Grand Junction area, the DOE ought to give serious consideration to pursuing an environmental impact statement - if only to facilitate an increased level of public participation.

Subsequent to the meeting it has been learned that DOE has revised their plans and is instructing their contractors to pursue preparation of environmental impact statements for the Grand Junction and Rifle sites.

Original Signed by:

K. Hamill

Kathleen J. Hamill, Project Manager
 Uranium Recovery Licensign Section
 Low-Level Waste Licensing Branch

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