

Return to URFO 467-83
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URFO:DMC
Docket No. 40-8681
04008681250E

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

DEC 0 2 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8681
FROM: Daniel M. Gillen, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV
SUBJECT: SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE NO. SUA-1358, ENERGY FUELS NUCLEAR -
WHITE MESA URANIUM PROJECT, AMENDMENT NO. 19

By letter dated May 21, 1982, Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) requested that they be allowed to bury certain non-tailings materials in the tailings disposal area. The licensee is currently indirectly prohibited from such burial of non-tailings materials by License Condition No. 11 of Source Material License SUA-1358 which binds the licensee to statements made in their license application. The proposed action is a new license condition to authorize the disposal of contaminated scrap materials from site operations in the EFN tailings impoundment in accordance with Section 20.302 of Part 20.

The licensee states in their May 21, 1982 letter that disposal of the contaminated scrap materials in the tailings impoundment will be kept to a minimum due to their intention to waste as little valuable tailings storage volume as possible. Disposal of the limited quantity of solid waste materials in the tailings cells is a preferable alternative to surface disposal within the restricted area or burial at a licensed waste disposal site.

The proposed action would require the licensee to document all disposal of non-tailings materials in the impoundment, and to adhere to the following four conditions as outlined in their May 21, 1982 letter:

1. Only those materials which cannot be decontaminated at a reasonable cost and other radioactive wastes may be disposed of in the tailings impoundment.
2. Prior approval must be granted by the Manager of Uranium Processing, with knowledge and consent of the Radiation Safety Officer, prior to the disposal of any such materials.
3. Heavy items, or those with sharp or protruding surfaces, will be placed in an area of the impoundment containing a sufficient thickness of deposited tailings to insure that no damage will occur to the synthetic liner.

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4. Lightweight material will be placed within suitable containers and weighted so as to insure that the deposited material will remain in the disposal area.

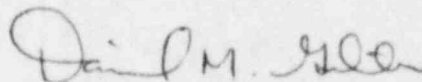
In addition, the staff would require that only waste material resulting from site operations could be disposed of in the tailings impoundment and that the licensee be prohibited from disposing of empty containers that could cause a void in the tailings and subsequent differential settlement once the container has disintegrated.

The staff has concluded that issuance of this amendment as described above will not result in any additional environmental impacts nor will it adversely affect the integrity of the tailings impoundment.

Approval of this amendment with the following new license condition is recommended:


55. Notwithstanding the limitations on the materials that may be disposed of in the tailings impoundment as described in Section 4.3 of the White Mesa license application, the licensee shall be allowed to dispose within the tailings impoundment area any wastes contaminated by authorized uranium recovery or tailings disposal operations at the White Mesa site. The licensee shall adhere to conditions one through four outlined in their letter dated May 21, 1982. In addition, the licensee shall not dispose of any empty or partially filled containers or barrels that could create a void in the tailings upon future collapse or disintegration.

The licensee shall document all incidents of disposal of non-tailings materials. Unless otherwise specified in NRC regulations, all such documentation shall be maintained for a period of at least 5 years.



Daniel M. Gillen, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Approved By:



John A. Linehan, Section Chief
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Case Closed: 04008681250E