

14 1994

Mr. Albert R. Chernoff, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project Office
U. S. Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400

Dear Mr. Chernoff:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the U.S. Department of Energy's submittal of Project Interface Document (PID) Number 09-S-20 (Class I) for the Mexican Hat, Utah, Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project, transmitted to us by your letter dated February 16, 1994. Based on this review, as discussed in the enclosure, the NRC staff concurs in PID Number 09-S-20.

This PID proposes: 1) design changes to the grading and erosion protection plan for the tailings embankment final configuration, 2) a requirement for a test section for placement control of Types A, B, and B1 riprap, and 3) identification of the source for Type B1 riprap. If you have any questions, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Mohammad Haque at (301) 504-2580.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Joseph J. Holonich, Acting Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: C. Smythe, DOE ATb
R. Edge, DOE ATb
D. Bierley, TAC ATb

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HAT/MON-PID #20

1. Changes to Grading and Erosion Protection Plan. The changes proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) included lowering of the final top surface elevation at the southern portion of the pile, resulting in design revisions where the pile top abuts the natural steep topography. These revisions were reviewed to ensure that appropriate natural phenomena were considered and that the revised design was consistent with previously-approved designs. Using review procedures identified in the Standard Review Plan and specific design procedures identified in the staff's Technical Evaluation Report, the staff reviewed the proposed changes to the previously-approved plan. Based on the use of appropriate design procedures, the staff concludes that the changes are acceptable.

2. Test Section for Riprap Placement. For completeness, DOE added a requirement to provide a test section for Type B1 riprap, similar to test sections already included in the specifications for Types A and B. Type B1 rock was recently added to the design and was approved by the staff in Project Interface Document #18. The staff concludes that it is appropriate to add a requirement for Type B1 rock, since such a requirement exists for other rock types.

3. Identification of Source of Type B1 Rock. For completeness, DOE identified the Bluff Gravel Quarry as the source of Type B1 rock. The Bluff Quarry is approved as the source of Type A and Type B riprap. Since the Type B1 rock is derived from screening rock from this source, it is identical in quality to the other rock types. Therefore, the staff concludes that the source is acceptable.

Enclosure