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APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Umetco Minerals Corporation
White Mesa Mill

Docket No.: 40-8681
License No.: SUA-1358

During an inspection conducted August 13-16, 1990, three violations of NRC requirements were identified. The violations involved the failure to correctly calculate internal exposure for a yellowcake precipitation operator; failure to maintain issuance records for respirator use; and failure to suspend yellowcake drying operations when the emission control equipment was not operating within design specifications. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1990) (Enforcement Policy), the violations are listed below.

- A. 10 CFR 20.103(a)(3) states, in part, that for the purposes of determining compliance with the exposure determination requirements of 10 CFR 20.103, the licensee shall use suitable measurements of concentrations of radioactive materials in air.

Contrary to this requirement, measurements of airborne concentrations in the yellowcake dryer enclosure were not used to calculate exposures for a yellowcake precipitation operator whose job included routine entry into the enclosure during the period June 3 through July 28, 1990.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement IV).

- B. 10 CFR 20.103(c)(2) states, in part, that the licensee may make allowance for the use of respiratory protective equipment in estimating exposures of individuals provided that the licensee maintains and implements a respiratory protection program that includes issuance records.

Contrary to this requirement, issuance records were not maintained for yellowcake precipitation operations on April 1, 2, 4, 6, 7; July 1-5; and June 24-25; and RWP 795, issued on June 7, 1990, for which respiratory protection credit was used in determining employee exposures.

This is a Severity Level V violation (Supplement IV).

- C. License Condition No. 34A states, in part, that the operations shall be immediately suspended in the affected area of the mill if any of the emission control equipment for the yellowcake drying or packaging areas is not operating within specifications for design performance.

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Contrary to this requirement, yellowcake packaging operations were conducted during the period August 5-15, 1990, while water flow for the scrubber was outside the manufacturer's recommended ranges.

This is a Severity level IV violation (Supplement VI).

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Umetco Minerals Corporation is hereby required to submit to this office, within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice, a written statement or explanation in reply, including for each violation: (1) the reason for the violation, if admitted; (2) the corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved; (3) the corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further violations; and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the response time.

Dated at NRC, Region IV, Uranium Recovery Field Office, this 13th day of Sept. 1990.

Lawrence A. Yandell
Acting Director