

MAR 25 1994

Mayor Reford Theobald
City of Grand Junction
250 North Fifth Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Mayor Theobald:

Enclosed are the minutes of the March 14, 1994, meeting with you that was held at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's building at 11555 Rockville Pike, in Rockville, Maryland. At the meeting, the Grand Junction City officials expressed concern for the city's possible responsibility for the uranium mill tailings remaining on city property after the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project ends. I trust that you are reassured that the NRC agrees with you that the Department of Energy (DOE) has some responsibility for the ultimate disposal of this material, and that a long-term plan for the control and management of these tailings deposits needs to be finalized by DOE.

If you have any questions, please contact NRC's project manager for vicinity properties, Elaine Brummett at (301) 504-2533.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See attached list

SUBJECT ABSTRACT: SIGNIFICANT MEETING MINUTES

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MARCH 14, 1994 MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Robert Fonner, OGC
E. Brummett, NMSS
M. Fliegel, NMSS
D. Gillen, NMSS

City of Grand Junction:

Reford Theobald, Mayor
David Varley, Assistant City Manager
Jim Shanks, Director of Public Works

PURPOSE

The Mayor of Grand Junction, Colorado, requested a meeting to discuss:

1. The status of uranium mill tailings deposits on vicinity properties after the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project ends;
2. NRC's position on the need for a post-UMTRA Project plan; and
3. The city's liability, disposal options, regulatory obligations, and costs in dealing with the material.

DISCUSSION

The Grand Junction City officials expressed concern for the city's possible responsibility for the uranium mill tailings remaining on city property after the UMTRA Project ends. They provided information on the location of the city utility line trenches backfilled with uranium mill tailings and mentioned that some Grand Junction streets and sidewalks are bedded in tailings. These deposits are occasionally exposed during repairs and maintenance, and this excavation of tailings by city crews will continue for decades. With closure of the Grand Junction UMTRA Project disposal cell in 1996, there will no longer be a near-by approved disposal site for tailings.

NRC staff explained the Agency's policy, stating that when the Department of Energy (DOE) proposed to apply generic supplemental standards to the Grand Junction utility line deposits in March 1991, NRC indicated it would not concur until a long-term tailings control and management plan had been implemented. Staff provided the Grand Junction officials with a copy of NRC's December 1991 reply letter to DOE's draft post-cell closure plan. In the letter, NRC states that DOE has some responsibility for the ultimate disposal of this residual radioactive material.

Control and disposal options available to the Project and the city were discussed; then a brief summary of mill tailings regulations was given by staff. The city officials were reassured that NRC staff is aware of their concerns and agrees that a post-UMTRA Project plan is needed for tailings on UMTRA Project vicinity properties.

Enclosure

CC list for Meeting Minutes dated: MAR 25 1994

Mr. Albert R. Chernoff
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Mr. Joseph Virgona
Grand Junction Projects Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 2567
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

Mr. Jeffrey Deckler
Remedial Programs
Division of Hazardous Materials
Colorado Department of Health
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80222

Mr. G. Bud Franz
UMTRA Project Field Office
Colorado Department of Health
222 S. Sixth Street #232
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