



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

Docket No. 40-3453

APR 19 1994

Mr. Greg Wingard  
9720 - 1st Ave. NW  
Seattle, Washington 98117

Dear Mr. Wingard:

This is in response to your letter to me dated March 27, 1994, concerning the decommissioning and reclamation of the Atlas Uranium Mill located near Moab, Utah. In that letter, you asked about progress in preparing a Supplemental EIS for the site. As has been previously noticed, a Public Scoping meeting was held in Moab, Utah, on April 14, 1994. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input into the scope of a proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or a supplement to the previously published one I referenced in my November 18, 1993, letter to you.

You asked about other activities underway at the site. As I am sure you are aware, decommissioning and decontamination of the mill buildings and surrounding areas are in progress, as are activities directed towards corrective actions for the ground water.

You may not be aware that the Uranium Recovery Field Office is closing this summer. As a consequence of the closure, responsibility for regulatory oversight of the Atlas facility has been transferred to the NRC Headquarters Office in Rockville, Maryland. That office now has the lead for reevaluating the reclamation plan for the tailings pile, and for completion of the EIS process. Any questions regarding those activities, or suggestions such as your recommendation for periodic fact sheet distribution, should now be addressed to:

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Chief (301) 504-3387  
High Level and Uranium Recovery Projects Branch  
Division of Waste Management, NMSS  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike (M/S 5 E 2)  
Rockville, MD 20850

Your letter misrepresented the statement I had made in my November 18, 1993, letter to you regarding drying out of the tailings. The statement I made was: "Although it may not be apparent, as the pond atop the tailings has evaporated, an interim cover has been progressively placed on the exposed tailings." I did not state that the pile top was totally free of liquids and covered as you indicate. In reality, the pile top was actually dry late last summer; however, rainwater and recovered ground water have again formed a small pond near the low point of the tailings. This drying and rewetting will

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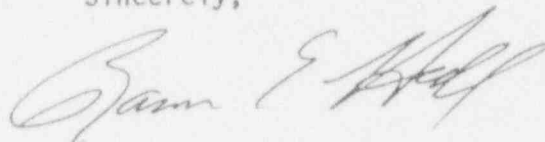
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probably continue due to climatic conditions until pile reclamation is approved. Capture and evaporation from the pile surface is preferable to uncontrolled discharge of the rainwater and ground water during this interim period. Perimeter monitoring of radon emission from the site continues to demonstrate that release rates are within prescribed limits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ramon E. Hall".

Ramon E. Hall  
Director

cc:  
W. J. Sinclair, Utah DEQ  
Richard Blubaugh, Atlas

Mr. Greg Wingard

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bcc: w/o enclosures  
S. J. Collins, DRSS, RIV  
R. A. Scarano, DRSS, RIV  
M. R. Knapp, WMD (5 E2)  
J. T. Greeves, WMD (5 E2)  
J. J. Holonich, HLUR (5 E2)  
R. E. Hall, URFO  
C. A. Hackney, RIV  
R. J. Doda, RIV  
C. A. Dube, RIV  
R. Wise, RIV  
ADM file: Utah SIS-44  
Docket File 40-3453  
PDR  
DCS  
RIV r/f  
URFO r/f

Coordinated with LLWMD & RIV

PM:URFO <i>[Signature]</i>	DD:URFO <i>[Signature]</i>	D:URFO:RIV <i>[Signature]</i>		
DCWard <i>[Signature]</i>	EFHawkins	REHall/lv		
04/20/94	04/20/94	04/20/94		

AITs RIV-93-0125