

DEC 21 1990

Dr. Laszlo S. Sztanyik, Director General
National Research Institute for
Radiobiology and Radiohygiene
Budapest P.O.B. 101, Hungary
H-1775

Dear Dr. Sztanyik:

I am pleased to respond to your November 23, 1990, letter requesting information on criteria for reclamation and handling of uranium mining and mill tailings. I should point out, however, that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has jurisdiction only over the wastes produced by the uranium milling operations; the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulates mine waste. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to BLM so that they may respond on mine waste criteria.

In the area of uranium mill tailings, NRC is involved in programs for both reclamation of tailings from active mill licensee operations and remedial action cleanup of inactive, abandoned tailings sites. I have enclosed, for your information, documentation pertinent to the criteria applicable to these programs. The information includes the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NRC's conforming regulations, and selected technical documents. I have, also, enclosed a bibliography of uranium recovery related reports that can be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, if desired. The Generic Environmental Impact Statement that you have referred to in your letter is not included with the enclosures since the enclosed documents provide more detailed and up-to-date criteria.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me again.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Richard L. Bangart, Director
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures: As stated on list
cc/wc encl: John Cavin, BLM
(encl. this ltr.)

Distribution: (LLWM 90-235) Central File # NMSS r/f
RBangart JGreeves JAustin JSurmeier PLohaus
MFliegel DGillen LLWM t/f LLOB r/f
PDR YES X
PDR NO Category: Proprietary ___ or CF Only ___ ___
ACNW YES X NO

SUBJECT ABSTRACT: RESPONSE TO HUNGARIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR
RADIOBIOLOGY AND RADIOHYGIENE REQUEST FOR URANIUM MILL
TAILINGS CRITERIA

OFF :LLCB*	:LLOB*	:LLOB	:LLWM	:LLWM
NAME:DGillen/jj	:MFliegel	:PLohaus	:JGreeves	:RBangart
DATE:12/17/90	:12/18/90	:12/20/90	:12/21/90	:12/21/90

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DG/L.SZTANYIK/12/10

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LIST OF ENCLOSURES

1. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards for Remedial Actions at Inactive Uranium Processing Sites, January 5, 1983.
2. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards for Remedial Actions at Inactive Uranium Processing Sites (Groundwater Revisions), Proposed Rule, September 24, 1987.
3. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings at Licensed Commercial Processing Sites, October 7, 1983.
4. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 40 Appendix A, Criteria Relating to the Operation of Uranium Mills and the Disposition of Tailings or Wastes Produced by the Extraction or Concentration of Source Material from Ores Processed Primarily for their Source Material Content.
5. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Regulatory Guide 3.64, Calculation of Radon Flux Attenuation by Earthen Uranium Mill Tailings Covers, March 1989.
6. U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Final Staff Technical Position, Design of Erosion Protection Covers for Stabilization of Uranium Mill Tailings Sites, August 1990.
7. Bibliography of U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Uranium Recovery Related NUREG Reports.