

FEB 14 1991

URFO:PWM
 Docket No. WM-39
 040WM039520E

Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
 U. S. Department of Energy
 ATTN: Mark L. Matthews, Project Manager
 P. O. Box 5400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dear Mr. Matthews:

The NRC has completed a review of the Radiological and Engineering Assessment (REA) for the property numbered GJ-00461-CC, which is a portion of property number GJ-90101-CC, located in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Based upon our review, we conclude that the criteria of 40 CFR 192.21(d) have been met for the application of supplemental standards. We agree that taking no remedial action is reasonable under the circumstances, and the requirements of 40 CFR 192.22(a) are also satisfied. Comments were solicited from the property owner in accordance with 40 CFR 192.22(c), and were provided with the REA. The owner does not accept the proposed application of supplemental standards for this location. However, it appears the owner's focus was on the reasonableness of the cost without balancing the negligible benefits to individuals which would result from remedial action. The property owner's questions concerning potential future contact with the tailings remaining in place as a result of the application of supplemental standards is a valid concern. Though beyond the scope of this REA, it does reinforce the importance of having a long-term tailings control and management plan. The scope of such a plan should obviously include the potential future disturbance of tailings such as those with which the property owner is concerned. We understand a plan is anticipated to be completed in 1991 as part of the Romer-Twinning Agreement.

For reasons stated above, we concur with the application of supplemental standards as proposed in the REA for property GJ-00461-CC. Should you have any questions, please contact Paul Michaud of my staff at FTS 776-2805.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By:
 R. E. HALL

Ramon E. Hall
 Director

cc:
 MAbrams, DOE
 PMann, DOE
 Rquillin, RCPD, CO

PM:URFO
 PWMichaud:db
 02/13/91

DD:URFO
 fEHawkins
 02/14/91

D:URFO:RIV
 REHall
 02/17/91

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 PDR WASTE
 WM-39 PDR

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bcc:
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PDR/DCS
URFO r/f
ABBeach, RIV
LLUR Branch, LLWM
PWMichaud
DLJacoby
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