

Return to URFO 467-33

Docket 40-8681

PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

NOV 23 1982

URFO:DMG
Docket No. 40-8681
04008681281E

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8681
FROM: Daniel M. Gillen
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF TAILINGS RETENTION SYSTEM ANNUAL
INSPECTION SUMMARY, ENERGY FUELS NUCLEAR, WHITE MESA
PROJECT

By letter dated July 26, 1982, in accordance with License Condition No. 26 (e) of Source and Byproduct Material License No. SUA-1358, Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) submitted an annual summary report of surveillance and inspection of the tailings retention system at the White Mesa Uranium Mill. This report covered the operational period from June 1981 to June 1982.

The condition of the tailings retention system, as presented by the licensee, can be summarized as follows. During this period, a few instances of liner exposure due to wave action and/or rainfall erosion were noted. However, there was no evidence of liner damage and corrective action was taken immediately to re-cover any exposed liner. No erosion was noted that would in any way threaten the integrity of the embankments. Some minor burrowing by rodents was noted on the downstream side of Dike 3. The burrowing animals were exterminated before any extensive damage was done. In general, the daily inspections have found the tailings retention system to be operating as designed with no major problems or conditions that would lead to failure.

In addition, EFN has initiated an annual survey program to monitor any movement of the dikes. A survey by Johnston-Keogh, Land Surveyors, was attached to the July 26, 1982 letter. Johnston-Keogh concluded that to this date no movement of the dikes has occurred and that during their survey team's time at the site, no cracks, distortions, seepage, sinking or other unusual conditions were noted.

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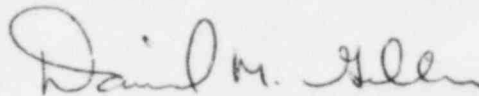
Certified by *B. Fisher*

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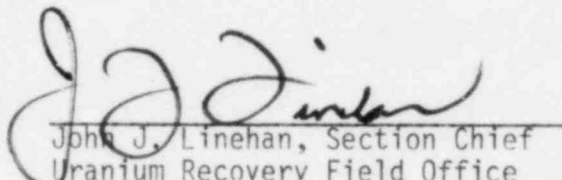
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It should be noted that during the period discussed in this report, EFN was not required to conduct an inspection program comparable to that outlined in Regulatory Guide 3.11.1. This fact was noted during the NRC Mill Appraisal Program conducted last year. As a result of this finding, EFN submitted a comprehensive program on March 1, 1982 that the staff determined was comparable to Regulatory Guide 3.11.1. By Amendment No. 16 of SUA-1358, issued November 5, 1982, EFN is now required to perform and document the tailings system inspections in accordance with their program submitted by letter dated March 1, 1982.



Daniel M. Gillen
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Approved By:



John J. Linehan, Section Chief
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Case Closed: 04008681281E