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Docket 40-8681
40-8752
PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

URFO:DMG
Docket No. 40-8681
Docket No. 40-8752
04008752021S
040086811800

NOV 23 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8681
Docket File No. 40-8752

FROM: Daniel M. Gillen
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT

Purpose

The purpose of the trip was to 1) meet with John Nelson (staff consultant) and Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) personnel in the Denver Field Office to discuss long-term stability aspects of the revised White Mesa tailings reclamation plan, and 2) inspect the Pinal Minerals and Mining heap leach site near Globe, Arizona.

Energy Fuels Nuclear

On October 12, 1982, the NRC staff met with Energy Fuels Nuclear regarding the review of the recently revised reclamation plan. Attendees at the meeting were:

D. Gillen, NRC	C. E. Baker, EFN
J. Linehan, NRC	H. Roberts, EFN
J. Nelson, Colorado St. University	G. Glasier, EFN

The staff had reviewed EFN's reclamation submittals dated September 7 and 24, 1982, and based on this review, the following issues were discussed:

1. The figure included with the September 24, 1982 submittal showed a total cover thickness of 9.4 feet. In accordance with a conclusion of the September 13, 1982 meeting held at the NRC's Silver Spring Office, this thickness was calculated by EFN and their consultants

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using NRC methodology for radon reduction. I informed EFN that the drawing incorrectly shows the rock protection layer as being part of the 9.4 feet of soil required to reduce radon to acceptable levels; i.e., the 6H:1V slopes showed 6 feet of rock and only 3.4 feet of soil. H. Roberts of EFN stated that this would be rectified and a new drawing would be submitted.

2. A review of the expanded unit cost breakdown provided in the September 24, 1982 submittal was performed by T. Fleming of the staff. I presented his concern that the revegetation cost estimation is too low. EFN suggested that Fleming call John Vaughn (EFN agronomist) who developed the basis for these costs.
3. John Nelson, staff consultant on long-term stability, presented his review of the revised reclamation plan. He noted that the low areas left after Cells 1 and 3 are reclaimed are of sufficient size to retain the PMF and would actually result in added cover of the reclaimed slopes of the tailings area due to the sedimentation build-up over the years. Based on his review, he concluded the the long-term stability aspects of the proposed reclamation plan would likely be acceptable although further staff review of the rock cover durability was necessary.

Pinal Minerals and Mining

The background of the Pinal Minerals and Mining heap leach operation has been detailed in a memorandum from J. Linehan to R. S. [redacted] dated April 6, 1981. An NRC source and byproduct material license (1385) was issued on November 5, 1981 and since that time, attempts by Pinal personnel have not been successful. On October 13, 1982, I met B. Spitzburg, (Region IV inspector) in Phoenix, Arizona and we drove to Globe, Arizona to make contact with personnel associated with the Pinal Minerals and Mining heap leach operation. We were unable to find Mr. Tom Clary (Pinal General Partner).

However, we did locate Mr. Gary Wilson, Mr Clary's son-in-law who had worked at the Pinal site. Wilson informed us that the Pinal operation has been inactive for about two years and that Mr. Clary is presently working in Alaska. Wilson contacted Clary and was directed by him to take us out to the site.

The site appeared to be in exactly the same condition as had been previously reported in the April 6, 1981 memorandum describing the August

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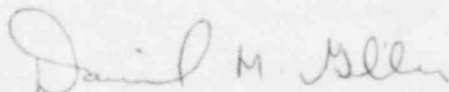
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5, 1980 site visit by J. Linehan and M. Mustain. This would verify the licensee's statements regarding the time period that operations have been in shutdown status.

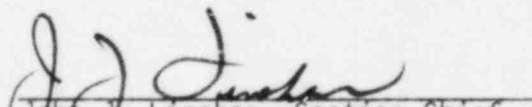
As discussed in the April 6, 1981 memorandum, Clary had previously indicated that 1) the ore pile located at the site of blasting operations would be moved onto an impermeable pad, 2) specific responses to previous information requests from the NRC would be submitted after he had finalized a partnership, and 3) authorization to discontinue heap leaching and add a crusher and filter process would likely be requested. None of these actions has been carried out by Pinal and the indefinite shutdown of operations was conducted without contact being made with the NRC staff. In addition, Pinal did not submit a license renewal application by September 1, 1982, as required by License Condition No. 14.

Details of the inspection and any compliance related follow-up will be covered in the inspection report being prepared by B. Spitzburg. Further contact with Mr. Clary must be made to determine his plans for the project and to determine the subsequent course of licensing action that needs to be made by the staff.



Daniel M. Gillen
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Approved By:



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