



UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE  
BOX 25325  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

DEC 21 1993

Association for the Tree of Life  
ATTN: Richard L. Christie  
P.O. Box 1366  
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Mr. Christie,

This acknowledges my receipt of your letter dated December 9, 1993, and the attachments you included. I appreciate your calling this potential process for rendering mill tailings benign to my attention. Since your letter addresses general applicability of this process, and discounts applicability to a specific site, we have not docketed it against any specific licensed site.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not the applicable federal agency responsible for making a definitive assessment of the technical aspects of the transmutation process you have referenced. Such an assessment would normally be performed by an agency such as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It does appear however, that if the process you have identified were workable, the cost of processing large quantities of uranium mill tailings through a portable linear accelerator, would probably be too large to have applicability to the large tailings piles at uranium mill sites. If you want to pursue this, you might contact the DOE and raise with it the feasibility of this process and any potential applications.

Representative Orton's staff has not raised this as an issue with our office. We appreciate your advising us of the potential interest which his office might show in this subject.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ramon E. Hall".

Ramon E. Hall  
Director

cc:  
J.J. Holonich, LLUR, (5 E2)  
W.J. Sinclair, Utah DEQ  
T.R. Combs, OSP, (3 D23)

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PDR MISC  
9402240169 PDR

Association for the Tree  
of Life

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DEC 21 1993

bcc:  
PDR/DCS  
URFO r/f  
DDChamberlain, RIV  
LLUR Branch, LLWM  
DBSpitzberg, RIV  
REHall  
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*MA* *Coordinated with LLUR - Holmich. 12/21/93*

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REHall/db				
12/21/93				

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