

40-8681



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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April 28, 1994

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. William W. Brice
Plant Manager
Umetco Minerals Corp.
White Mesa Mill
P.O. Box 669
Blanding, UT 84511

RE: Ground Water Discharge Permit

Dear Mr. Brice:

Pursuant to discussions between Umetco and the Department of Environmental Quality, we have evaluated the applicability of a ground water discharge permit for the White Mesa Mill. Since the mill's tailings impoundments are a potential source of ground water contamination, they are subject to the Utah Ground Water Protection Regulations, UAC R317-6. The tailings impoundments were in use prior to February 10, 1990, so they are considered "existing facilities" under the regulations. The regulations provide that existing facilities, such as these tailings impoundments, must obtain a ground water discharge permit, if required by the Executive Secretary.

All such existing facilities, including all Umetco's facilities, were required to provide notification of the nature of their discharge in 1990. We have ranked these facilities according to the relative risk they pose to ground water. Those facilities situated high on the priority list, and which have been determined to pose a significant threat, are being required to obtain a ground water discharge permit. Primary consideration was given to Umetco because of new waste management activities involving receipt and disposal of in-situ mining waste

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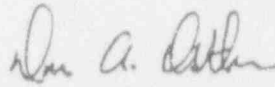
Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of UAC R317-6-6.1, you are hereby requested to submit the information needed for a ground water discharge permit application within one year of receipt of this notice. Information needed for a permit application is listed in UAC R317-6-6.3.

In addition, to assist you in determining the issues addressed in the permitting process, we are sending a guidance document on ground water permits, which contains an application form which you may wish to use if you find it helpful, as well as a copy of an existing permit similar to your case.

If you have any questions on the permitting process, please contact Mark Novak of this office.

Sincerely,

Utah Water Quality Board



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

DAO:MN:wfm

cc: (w/o enclosures)
Joe Holonich, U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters
Bob Doda, NRC Region IV
Paul Mushovic U.S. EPA, Region VIII
Ty Howard, DERR
Southeast Utah Health Dept.
Bill Sinclair, Div. of Radiation Control

Michelle Rehmann, Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc. (w/enclosures)

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