



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Return to URFO 467-55  
Docket 40-3453  
PDR

FEB 24 1983

URFO: PJG  
Docket No. 40-3453  
040034532315

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-3453

FROM: Pete J. Garcia, Jr., Project Manager  
Licensing Branch II  
Uranium Recovery Field Office  
Region IV

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF GROUNDWATER STUDY FOR THE MOAB MILL

By letter dated October 29, 1982, Atlas Minerals submitted a report discussing the ongoing site hydrology study for NRC review. The report was also reviewed by NRC consultant Dr. Roy E. Williams. Dr. Williams' comments are provided in a letter dated December 1, 1982.

The reviews of the Atlas report by Dr. Williams and myself indicate the following major points:

- (1) Five new monitoring wells have been installed at the site, as required by Condition No. 53 of SUA-917. Installation of the wells was generally in accordance with specifications in Condition No. 53.
- (2) The Colorado River at the site is generally a gaining rather than a losing stream. This is an important point with regard to the fate of seepage from the tailings pond, as it indicates that the seepage generally discharges into the Colorado River.
- (3) The brine-fresh water interface underlies the site at an approximate depth of 85 feet. This interface provides a barrier to further vertical migration of seepage due to the extremely dense nature of the brine relative to the seepage.
- (4) Newly installed Well ATP-3 should provide accurate information regarding background water quality at the site.

My review of the October 29, 1982 submittal indicates that the only information not yet available regarding the seepage situation at the site

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Docket File No. 40-3453  
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FEB 24 1983

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concerns the present rate of seepage from the tailings pond. Atlas is currently performing a water balance study to determine the seepage rate. This information will be an important consideration in any decision regarding the need for seepage control measures.

*Pete J. Garcia Jr.*

Pete J. Garcia, Jr., Project Manager  
Licensing Branch II  
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Approved By:

*for* *Pete J. Garcia Jr.*  
Harry J. Pettengill, Branch Chief  
Licensing Branch II  
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Case Closed: 04003453231S