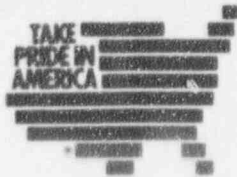




United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF MINES
Intermountain Field Operations Center
P.O. Box 25086
Building 20, Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH May 5, 1994

Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attention: Docketing and Services Branch

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 51
(59FR 14912)

Dear Mr. Chilk:

Subject: Review of Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Reclamation of Atlas Corporation's Uranium Mill Facility, Moab, Grand County, Utah (ER 94/289)

As requested by the Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Bureau of Mines personnel reviewed the subject notice. The Bureau is primarily concerned that mineral resources and mineral production facilities are adequately considered during the planning process. Our comments are drawn from available information, are provided on a technical assistance basis only, and may not reflect the position of the Department of Interior.

Although our comments are based on the general information in the Notice of Intent, the project appears to be located in an area that could contain high value potash and near areas of past uranium production. Because of the nature and small size of the project, it is unlikely that impacts to these resources would occur. Nevertheless, if these resources do occur at the proposed construction sites, a discussion should be provided in the EIS on the types minerals present, their potential value, and how proposed project actions could affect future development of the resources. If no adverse impacts to mineral resources are anticipated, a statement to that effect should be included.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide an early comment on this project. If you have questions regarding this review, please contact Roger Dolzani at (303) 236-0421.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Hibpshman
Supervisory Physical Scientist

rld/cvl

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