



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 17, 1994

The Honorable Hank Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0604


Dear Senator Brown:

I am responding to your letter of April 6, 1994, in which you requested assistance in replying to a letter from Reford C. Theobald, Mayor of Grand Junction, Colorado. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is aware of the situation regarding uranium mill tailings that will remain in Grand Junction at the completion of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project. As Mayor Theobald points out, some of the vicinity property tailings that are in unexposed, difficult-to-excavate areas, such as under streets and around utilities, would be left by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

The NRC staff met with Mayor Theobald to discuss this subject on March 14, 1994. During that meeting, we informed the Mayor and his staff that we are working with DOE, through our review and concurrence process, to ensure development of a post-UMTRA plan, to handle these and other tailings remaining after the project ends. Furthermore, DOE has informed us that it has plans to complete a draft post-UMTRA position paper by July 1, 1994. This paper will consider the results of the recent value engineering session sponsored by the Colorado Department of Health, to address this issue.

Please convey this status to the Mayor in your response. I trust that this reply responds to your request.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

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