

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 31, 1994

The Honorable Philip R. Sharp, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy and Power Committee on Energy and Commerce United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In the near future, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to send to the Office of the Federal Register for publication, the enclosed final amendment to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 40. The amendment will require uranium mill licensees to complete the required cover over nonoperational tailings impoundments to control radon releases as expeditiously as practicable considering technological feasibility and to perform a one time verification that the radon barrier, as constructed, is effective. This final rule conforms the Commission's regulations governing uranium mill tailings disposal to recent amendments to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) general environmental standards in 40 CFR Part 192, Subpart D. The ultimate intent of these revisions is to provide the ample margin of safety necessary for the EPA to rescind its applicable National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP's) in 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart T in accordance with section 112(d)(9) of the Clean Air Act and eliminate dual regulation of this category of licensees. This rulemaking has been conducted in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between NRC, EPA, and the Agreement States that regulate uranium mill tailings disposal on the Clean Air Act Standards in Subparts T and W of 40 CFR Part 61 and a settlement agreement between EPA and litigants on Subpart T and its stay.

Sincerely,

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Michael Bilirakis

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 31, 1994

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation Committee on Environment and Public Works United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

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Enclosure:

Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator Alan K. Simpson



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May 31, 1994

The Honorable Richard H. Lehman, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Committee on Natural Resources United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

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Enclosure:

Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Barbara Vucanovich

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Enclosure: Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Michael Bilirakis

RPHEB DRA [CONFORMF.CL3]

RPHEB: DRA Offc: Name: CMattsen DC001 Date: 4/20/94

4/20/94

RPHEB: DRA

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Offc: Name: DKRathbun Date: 5/31/94

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[CONFORMF.CL2] com Offc: RPHEB:DRA RPHEB? DRA

Name: CMattsen Date: 4/20/94

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