

40-3453

Ramon E. Hall, Director
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
PO Box 25325
Denver, CO 80225



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May 13, 1994

RE: Docket No. 40-3453

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for your response to my inquiries of activities related to the Atlas Uranium Mill, near Moab, Utah.

As you know, I am very interested in what is occurring at the Atlas site. Given repeated inquiries to the NRC, and other agencies about site status, in particular activities related to demolition of the mill, imagine my surprise to learn of illegal activities related to Atlas site demolition. In researching files on uranium related matters in Washington State, I came across references to the presence of radioactive equipment from the Atlas site in Spokane, Washington. Two ball mills from Atlas were sent to Atlas Mine & Mill Supply Inc., in Spokane. The only reason we found out about the radioactive equipment was due to the diligence of a whistle blower.

This leads me to ask, what kind of operation are you people running down there? Why when you knew I was from Washington, and concerned about the demolition of the Atlas mill, did you try to leave me in the dark about radioactive waste from Atlas in my state? What fines have been levied against Atlas for illegally transporting radioactive waste (contaminated equipment) into my state? Has criminal action against Atlas been initiated? What are you doing to remove this radioactive waste from my state and taking it back to where it belongs?

From the files I reviewed, it is apparent that equipment from Atlas was not just shipped interstate, but internationally as well. What ever safe guards you had in place to make sure recycled equipment and materials

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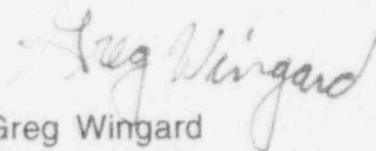
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met applicable regulations are obviously grossly inadequate. Although this occurred about the same time I was at the site, last year, the radioactive waste remains in Spokane. As the error occurred on your watch, I would like to know what your agency intends to do to fix it and when. I would hope, this is obvious enough, and the recommendation is already in place, but just in case, at all uranium mill demolition sites, independent verification of radioactive content of any material leaving the site should be required.

Learning of this incident and looking at your agencies response to date, does little to reassure me that the NRC is in control of the activities they are charged with regulating.

Please add my comments on this matter into the public record, including the scoping process currently under way. As you indicated that your office is closing shortly, a copy of this letter is also being routed to Joseph J. Holonich, and James M. Taylor.

Sincerely,



Greg Wingard
Dawn Watch

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cc: T.R. Strong, DOH (WA)