

Return to URFO 467-SS
Docket 40-4492
PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

URFO:DMG
Docket No. 40-4492
040044921215

JAN 13 ¹⁹⁸³~~1982~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-4492

FROM: Daniel M. Gillen
Licensing Branch I
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF SPECIAL SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT,
FEDERAL-AMERICAN PARTNERS (FAP) GAS HILLS MILL

A special follow-up inspection of FAP's activities authorized by NRC Source Material License No. SUA-667 was conducted by Messrs. J. E. Whitten and R. C. Brown of Region IV on July 29, 1982. This inspection was conducted specifically to observe the licensee's tailings areas and tailings stabilization methods. Snow cover and bad weather conditions had not allowed for complete inspection of the tailings areas during the comprehensive inspection performed in February, 1982. In addition, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality had expressed a concern regarding stabilization based on their observation of blowing tailings at the FAP site during high wind conditions.

The NRC inspectors observed that FAP had completed a study to find an effective, economic, chemical stabilizer, and had recently selected lignin sulfonate for use in their full scale stabilization program. Two applications of the chemical on Tailings Pond No. 2 had been made and the inspectors noted that the lignin sulfonate is providing an effective control of migrant tailings. Particulate air sampling data measured downwind of Tailings Pond No. 2 shows an improvement during the second quarter of 1982 over the previous quarter. Data for both quarters were below MPC values for unrestricted areas; Thorium concentrations approached 16% of MPC, but all other concentrations were less than 1% of MPC.

The inspection of the tailings areas revealed that prior to the implementation of the chemical stabilization program some fine tailings sands had blown outside the tailings area. These tailings had

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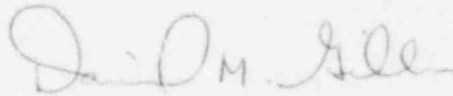
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accumulated in an area downwind of the tailings pond but still within the restricted area. During a January 11, 1983 telephone conversation with K. Watts of FAP, I was informed that the blown tailings would be cleaned up and returned to the tailings pond in the near future.

No violations of NRC requirements were found during the inspection, and no licensing action is needed based on the results of the inspection. The URFO licensing staff will closely monitor FAP's air particulate data to assure that FAP's measures for controlling dry tailings remain effective.



Daniel M. Gillen
Licensing Branch I
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

CC: W. Ackerman, WDEQ
W. Garland, WDEQ

Case Closed: 04004492121S