



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

*Docket File
40-3453*

MAR 27 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: L. C. Rouse, Chief
Fuel Processing and Fabrication Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle & Material Safety

FROM: L. G. Hulman, Chief
Hydrology-Meteorology Branch
Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO DES COMMENTS - ATLAS URANIUM MILL

Enclosed is a response to comments raised by the Corps of Engineers (COE) on the subject DES. We find the COE comments to be well-founded, in that the PMF is significantly greater than the estimate developed by the applicant. We identified the potential flood problem on Moab Canyon Wash in our memo (H. R. Denton to H. Lowenberg) of August 2, 1974.

for *L. G. Hulman*
L. G. Hulman, Chief
Hydrology-Meteorology Branch
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: w/encl:
H. Denton
W. Gammill
J. Martin
R. Scarano
F. Lomax
J. Kane
P. Garcia
T. Johnson

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PDR ADOCK 04003453
C PDR

RESPONSE TO DES COMMENTS
ATLAS URANIUM MILL.

We have reviewed the comments provided by the Corps of Engineers (COE) on the Atlas Uranium Mill. COE indicated that the applicant's PMF estimate of 1660 cfs may be somewhat low in light of historic data which indicates that a flow of 1200 cfs per square mile could be expected from the eight square mile drainage area. This estimate is based on envelope curves for Utah Streams of various sizes.

Based on an independent estimate of flooding in Moab Canyon, Wash., we conservatively calculate the PMF flow to be approximately 36,000 cfs. We therefore conclude that the COE comments are fully justified.