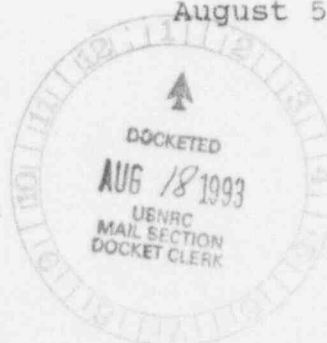


40-3453  
X61074

David L. Meyer, Chief  
Rules Review and Directives Branch  
Office of Administrator P-223  
US - NRC  
Washington, D.C. 20555

August 5, 1993

Re: Atlas Tailing Pond in Moab, Utah



93 AUG 18  
RECEIVED  
URFO

Mr. Meyer:

We are residents of Moab, Utah, where the NRC is planning to "cap" an existing uranium mine tailings pond. In our opinion, your agency's FONSI defies common sense, let alone the "scientific" data relied upon for the FONSI. The depth of the pond alone, (be it 3965' or 3957') with the river normally running at 3960', seems to require that you move the tailings away from the river. The Colorado floods every spring. The pond is now, and will continue in the future unless the tailings are removed, leaching radioactive wastes into the river. This point source of pollution is unacceptable.

It was utter folly that Atlas located the pond where it is now, and it compounds the folly to have a federal agency spend our tax money to "cap" this garbage and leave it here to pollute our groundwater and the Colorado River for the future.

Additionally, the NRC's reliance on Atlas' 1977 cost estimates is equally ridiculous. The cost benefit analysis which the NRC relied upon in reaching the decision is fatally flawed. 1977 prices are not anything close to 1993 (and beyond) prices. Please review your cost benefit analysis in a realistic fashion. Based on what happened in Monticello, just south of Moab, the analysis should include the additional costs of the failure of the "cap" to do the job.

I would rather see the NRC require Atlas to move the mess away from the river, off of the Moab fault, and out of the Mancos shale, into a more stable location, as recommended by Larry Anderson, Director of Utah's Division of Radiation Control.

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

OFFICIAL DOCKET COPY

Add Info  
93-0590

9409020142 930805  
PDR ADOCK 04003453  
C PDR

Utah has born enough pollution and health problems amongst its citizenry in the name of national security. We want some environmental, healthful security now -- and it is well past time for the feds to act responsibly here. Move the pile.

Sincerely,

*Susan H. Ulery*

Susan H. Ulery  
CVSR 2204  
Moab, UT 84532

*Melanie J. Allardale*

Melanie J. Allardale  
CVSR 2911  
Moab, UT 84532

*Shari Simmons*

Shari Simmons  
CVSR 2204  
Moab, UT 84532

*Donovan Roberts*

Donovan Roberts  
CVSR 2911  
Moab, UT 84532



Director, Uranium Recovery Field Ofc.  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 25325  
Denver, CO 80225