



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
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DENVER, COLORADO 80225

APR 21 1983

Return to URFO 467-SS
Docket 40-8348
PDR

URFO:SLW
Docket No. 40-8348
04008348010E

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8348

FROM: Sandra L. Wastler, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 1
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

SUBJECT: MINERALS EXPLORATION COMPANY'S (MEC'S) A-3 PILOT
PLANT R&D ISL FACILITY. OUTSTANDING LICENSING REVIEW
ISSUES

As a result of my initial technical review of the Minerals Exploration Company (MEC) docket file the following issues remain outstanding:

1. Groundwater quality for U_{308} and Ra-226 has not been stabilized at the A-3 Pilot Plant. The latest water samples taken on December 7 and 8, 1982 from MEC'S wells 5A, 6A, 7A, 1B and 5B by the LQD were analyzed by both LQD and MEC for concentrations of U_{308} and Ra-226. These analyses showed that for well pattern A, U_{308} concentrations have increased over the previous October 1981 concentrations, while in well pattern B U_{308} concentrations are continuing to decrease. Of the wells analyzed, only wells 6A and 7A exceed the 5.89 mg/l U_{308} limit for drinking water standards. Ra-226 concentrations have decreased with exception of wells 5A and 5B.
2. Annex C guidelines have not been met with regard to buried pipelines. In a March 18, 1981 report MEC noted that pipelines which were buried 5 feet deep would be left in place. Above ground pipelines carrying pregnant liquid indicated contamination levels below Annex C guidelines. In accordance with Annex C, surfaces of premises, equipment, or scrap which are likely to be contaminated but are of such size construction, or location as to make the surface inaccessible shall be presumed to be contaminated in excess of the limits.

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By

B. Fisher

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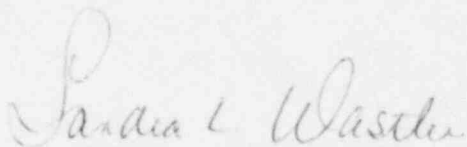
3. In the January 25, 1980 Addendum report, MEC indicated that a lined sump would be left covered and fenced. In a July 9, 1980 letter to MEC, G. Eadie made the following comment:

"So long as the contents of the lined sump are left as is an active source material license shall be maintained. Upon removal of the contents of the sump, and appropriate landfill and revegetation of the area, either a soil sampling or a gamma radiation survey shall be conducted to verify cleanup".

No response to this comment has been forthcoming.

4. The complete results of all soil sample analyses by MEC have not been provided to date. In a letter dated November 15, 1979, MEC committed to remove six inches of soil from the area used as a retention area/evaporation pond and in a July 9, 1980 letter from G. Eadie, MEC was required to conduct a resampling program at specific locations, including soil pit D. Soil pit D was the original source of the high U_3O_8 concentrated sample. The results of the analysis for soil pit D samples have yet to be reported.

As a result of the above discussion, I would recommend that a joint meeting be held between MEC, LQD, and URFO in an attempt to reach settlement on these issues.



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