



ATLAS CORPORATION | 

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STEVE MANZ  
Chief Financial Officer

January 23, 1995

VIA FACSIMILE: (301) 415-5397

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
High-Level Waste and Uranium Recovery  
Projects Branch, MS T7J9, DWM-ONMSS  
11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: License No. SUA-917 / Docket No. 40-3453  
Draft EIS Delay

Dear Mr. Holonich:

I was disappointed to hear from Richard Blubaugh (after his discussion with Allan Mullins on January 17, 1995) that we can once again expect a delay in the release of the draft version of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for our Moab tailings site. I was encouraged by Allan's comments to me early in December 1994 that the draft EIS was in the hands of the two cooperating agencies, and that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Park Service (USPS) were being given two weeks to complete their review and comments. Your estimate at that time of a possible release date late in December 1994 or early January 1995 was taken very seriously by us.

As you can imagine, Atlas' shareholders are carefully following the EIS process, and we have continually been providing both our shareholders and the investment community with the latest timetable estimates as provided to us by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). With the draft EIS release being postponed from the original date of November 1994 to the current estimate of March 1995, our credibility in conveying a realistic view of the process to our investors has come under question. In addition, the slippage in the timetable is being interpreted by some of our shareholders as a sign that the review process is possibly being impacted by some of the external political pressures. While we are aware at how careful the NRC has been in ensuring that the review is not being influenced, we are not always successful in conveying these views to our shareholders.

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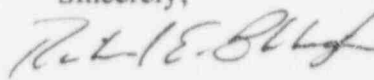
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In addition to the public's concern over the process, the timing of the release of the draft and final versions of the EIS as well as the NRC's Technical Review are very important to the company in its plans for continued growth. Given the perception within certain individuals in our industry that Moab will continue to remain an open-ended liability for Atlas, we continually find ourselves hampered in pursuing favorable property or corporate acquisitions.

I hope that I have adequately expressed our concerns over the importance of the EIS timing and the material impact that these continuing delays are having on our company. And I hope that you will continue to push for a timely release of the draft EIS.

Sincerely,

  
for Steve Manz

cc: Michael B. Richings  
Richard E. Blubaugh  
Anthony Thompson (Shaw, Pittman...)