AL F 1325.8

To: John Surmeier

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Albuquerque Operations Office

DATE: JUN 27 1991

REPLY TO ATTN OF: UMTRA:NL

SUBJECT: Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Cost Reduction/Productivity Improvement Program

TO

Those on Attached List

The purpose of the Uranuum Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Cost Reduction/Productivity Improvement Program (CR/PIP) is to heighten cost consciousness throughout the Project organization and to build on our successful cost reduction efforts of the past.

An important aspect of the UMTRA CR/PIP is communication. Information relating to the Project's cost reduction goals, progress toward meeting those goals and recognition of significant contractor and individual contributions is provided in the UMTRA CR/PIP Newsletter. A copy of the most recent issue is attached. Please help to ensure that the newsletter is distributed widely to inform, motivate, and promote cost reduction and productivity improvement in all organizations supporting the UMTRA Project.

The CR/PIP is an effective tool in maintaining total cost at the lowest possible level while at the same time enhancing productivity and will certainly enhance the existing cost-saving activities being conducted by the Project. If you have any questions regarding the UMTRA CR/PIP, please contact Nancy Lindas of my staff at 845-5666 or Jerry Holderness, UMTRA CR/PIP Coordinator at 845-4030.

Mark L Matthews

Mark L. Matthews
Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project Office

Attachment

cc w/attachment:
J. Holderness, JEG

JUN 27 1991

ADDRESSEES MEMORANDUM DATED

S. Mann, EM-451, HQ (3)
J. R. Carney, MA-224.1, FORSTL
J. E. Bickel, A/M, OESP, AL
B. Shaw, CPD, AL
R. deTimmerman, OCC, AL
L. Hymes, BRMD, AL
W. Bankey, AL
S. Hill, Manager, Alb. Operations, JEG
Technical Assistance Contractor (10)
Remedial Action Contractor (4)
Grand Junction Projects Office (5)
UNC Geotech (10)
Oak Ridge National Laboratory (2)
E. Hawkins, U.S. NRC, Denver
J. Surmeier, Low-Level Waste Licensing Branch,
U.S. NRC, Washington
H. Roitman, State of Colorado Department of Health
J. Deckler, State of Colorado Department of Health
B. Gaspar, Executive Assistant to the
Governor, State of Arizona
R. Blanton, Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency
R. Donovan, State of Idaho Department of
Health and Welfare
M. Burkhart, State of New Mexico
Environmental Improvement Division
N. Weber, State of New Mexico
Environmental Improvement Division
D. Mount, State of N. Dakota Department of Health
T. Gerusky, State of Pennsylvania Department
of Environmental Resources
J. Yusko, State of Pennsylvania, Department
of Environmental Resources
M. Begaye, The Navajo Nation
G. Gartzke, State of Texas Department of Health
M. Day, State of Utah Department of Health
J. Erickson, State of Wyoming
Department of Environmental Quality
R. Shaffer, State of Wyoming
A. Edwards, State of Wyoming Department of
Environmental Quality
D. Yaden, State of Oregon Department of Energy
F. Matthew, State of South Dakota, Department
of Water and Natural Resources
N. Natongla, The Hopi Tribe
UMTRA Project Office Staff (20)

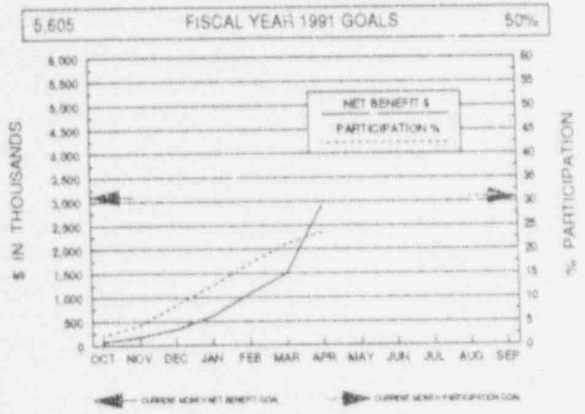
# UMTRA
## CR/PIP NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, No. 3 URANIUM MILL TAILINGS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT ALBUQUERQUE, NM JUNE, 1991

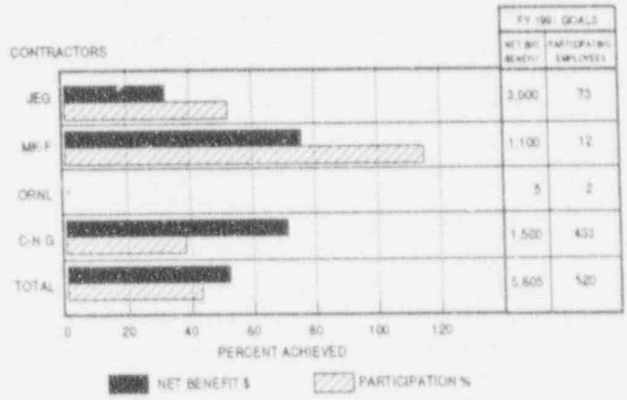

## PROJECT MANAGER'S UPDATE

## WHO'S LEADING ?

COST REDUCTION / PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT PROGRESS THROUGH APRIL 1991




COST REDUCTION / PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT
CONTRACTOR PROGRESS THROUGH APRIL 1991
PERCENT OF FY 91 GOALS ACHIEVED




## A GREAT FIRST HALF FOR FY 1991

An intense commitment to excel, and an ideal promoting success have resulted in the outstanding performance of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project's Cost Reduction and Productivity Improvement Program (CR/PIP) thus far in fiscal year 1991. During the period from October 1990 through April 1991, 220 employees contributed to a total net benefit of $2.917M.

We continue to build on past successes through the implementation of new initiatives. Our most recent initiative was the creation of the CR/PIP Project-level awards for which the first fiscal year 1991 award period was recently concluded. From October 1990 through March 1991, 196 employees contributed to a total net benefit of $1.5M. Semi-annual CR/PIP awards are given for the submittal with the highest net benefit, and the most submittals by a single employee. The recipients of the awards for the first half of fiscal year 1991 are all employed by Chem-Nuclear Geotech (Geotech). The award for the highest net benefit submittal was given to Arthur Garcia, Mark L. Mullis, Thomas R. Richards, and Richard R. Tabor, based on their $170,224 submittal for an innovative idea that improved the sampling program for respirable silica dust at the Grand Junction vicinity properties. The award for the most submittals was given to Sh-ila D. Worth who completed nine submittals that increased productivity in the Human Resource Department at Goetech.

I appreciate the fine efforts from all of you participating in the UMTRA Project's CR/PIP, and your willingness to go beyond what is simply required. Thanks for a job well done!

Sincerely,
Mark L. Matthews

## MK-FERGUSON SMASHES FY 1991 GOALS:

The FY 1991 goals are being challenged by all the UMTRA contractors, but only one has surpassed both its net benefit and participation goals through April 1991. The group at MK-Ferguson (MK-F) achieved their goals by reporting a net benefit of $702,422 for April, and an employee participation of 14 percent. MK-F now reports a total net benefit of $842,631. Net benefit goals through April have also been surpassed by Chem Nuclear-Geotech (Geotech). Geotech is $216K ahead of their plan through April and is looking for very strong months in May and June. Jacobs Engineering Group (JEG) is reporting the best performance against the employee participation goal at 34 percent. The participation in the CR/PIP is on the upswing and this will place us well ahead of our goals by the close of fiscal year 1991.

## NEWSFLASH

## NRC CERTIFIES SHIPROCK COMPLETION -- AN UMTRA FIRST!

The first of 24 Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project sites nationwide has received a certification of compliance with 40 CFR 192 Subparts A through C from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Shiprock site is located in northwestern New Mexico on the south side of the San Juan River within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation, and will remain in the possession of the Navajo Nation. The DOE has developed and will administer a long-term plan for monitoring and maintaining the site to ensure that it performs as designed.

## AN OUTSTANDING IDEA !

### REALTIME MEASUREMENTS REDUCE HEALTH RISK

To comply with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Chem-Nuclear Geotech (Geotech) collects air samples and monitors 25 percent of its work force that have the potential to be exposed to respirable silica dust. In addition to monitoring its own work force, Geotech also monitors subcontractor employees at the various work sites. The only OSHA-approved instrument to collect air samples in an MSA Flowlite air sampling pump; however, the turnaround time for analysis of samples is typically two to three weeks from the potential exposure. The Geotech UMTRA Program Manager determined that this turnaround time was unacceptable to protect employees adequately, and a new process to sample and monitor for respirable silica dust was sought.

The Silica Dust Committee was formed to develop an effective silica dust sampling program, and to find or develop instruments that would provide real-time silica dust analysis. The committee determined that a "mini ram" could provide real time measurements. A mini ram is an instrument that measures anything that is respirable, which could be silica dust, water vapor, other kinds of dust, and the like. Several work areas were sampled with both the mini ram and the MSA Flowlite devices and the resulting measurements were equivalent.

The Geotech silica dust sampling program was modified to incorporate the use of the mini ram and to eliminate the use of the MSA Flowlite air sampling respirable pump for monitoring subcontractor employees. The Silica Dust Committee developed a Field Directive that gives a construction inspector the authority to direct a subcontractor to initiate tighter engineering controls, should it become necessary. Geotech continues to routinely sample 25 percent of its work force using the MSA Flowlite air sampling pump per OSHA requirements.

In addition to protecting the employees through faster analysis, the new silica dust sampling program significantly reduces the costs of monitoring workers. The new sampling program reduced the number of samples taken with an MSA Flowlite air sampling pump by 30 samples per week, for a savings of $172,224.00 per year. The mini ram costs only $2,000.00 per year to use.

## CR/PIP COORDINATORS

| Contact | | Phone |
|---|---|---|
| Lisa Veitch | TSC | FTS 845-4027 |
| Bob Zeis | Geotech | FTS 326-6367 |
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| Melisa Jensen | ORNL | FTS 326-6169 |
| Jerry Holderness | IPMS - Project | FTS 845-4034 |
| Gilbert Trujillo Jr. | IPMS - Project | FTS 845-4034 |

## SITE INSIGHT

### "It's out of the way and glad of it."
### -Will Rogers

There is nothing spectacular about the name of Durango, nor is there any mystery about its origin. There is, however, a moral to its founding. Two of the seven deadly sins are at the source. --Greed and Pride.

In the early months of 1880, the little town of Animas (now the northern half of Durango) was a thriving gold and silver mining town. Homesteaders who had struck out in the mines were striking it rich in the fertile agricultural lands along the river. Word of the economic boom from the combined mining and farming industries spread rapidly both east and west. Late-coming California-bound gold-rushers, stopping in Animas to resupply before the final leg of their journey, spread stories of the idyllic mountain-surrounded town. Its relative proximity to Denver piqued the interest of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad barons, who, noting the isolation of the community, suggested their railroad as the solution to Animas' economic trade and transportation problems. They presented the town fathers with a plan to extend the rail lines through Silverton into Animas. In return for this generous plan, the town fathers had only to donate the land for a railroad depot. Believing the greedy railroad barons were only looking out for themselves (probably a justifiable conclusion), the town fathers refused and demanded the railroad buy what the railroad needed. Angered by the pride of the elders, the railroad moved a mile or so down the road from the town limits and drove the first stake, claiming the founding of Durango.

Durango grew quickly. Over 2,000 settlers poured in responding to railroad advertisements for employment and a lifestyle that rivaled Denver's. Twenty saloons had opened by 1881 and the town boasted 134 legitimate businesses plus a red-light district. Cattle herds made regular stampedes through Main Street on the way to the railroad stock yards. There were bar fights, shoot-em-ups, and two hangings before Durango's first anniversary: one for a hapless murderer cornered in his cell by a lynch mob; the other, a poor soul jerked to Jesus after a fair trial by a jury of his peers.

Named after the ranching community of Durango, Mexico, hearth site of the cattle breed by the same name, Durango slowly cultivated a more gracious social standard, becoming indeed the "Denver of the Southwest." Still a small town with a population of only 13,000 including the annexed portion of Animas, Durango has become the cultural and educational center of the Four Corners area.

By Storey Christine Smith.

Adapted from information provided by the Durango Chamber of Commerce