

APPENDIX

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

NRC Inspection Report: 40-4492/83-01

License: SUA-667

Docket: 40-4492

Licensee: Federal American Partners
Riverton, Wyoming

Facility: Gas Hills Mill

Inspection At: Fremont County, Wyoming

Inspection Conducted: October 3, 1983

Inspector:

C. L. Cain
C. L. Cain, Radiation Specialist

10/17/83
Date

Approved:

R. J. Everett
R. J. Everett, Chief, Materials Radiation
Protection Section

10/17/83
Date

Inspection Summary

Inspection Conducted on October 3, 1983 (Report: 40-4492/83-01)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection of shutdown uranium milling facility including radiation safety program and tailings management/environmental monitoring program.

The inspection involved 5 inspector-hours onsite by one NRC inspector.

Results: Within the two areas inspected, no violations or deviations were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

N. J. Andrus, Acting Project Manager
*E. J. Cox, Jr., Resident Manager
*K. S. Watts, Senior Environmental Engineer
*J. W. Lucas, Radiation Safety Officer (RSO)

*Denotes those present at exit briefing.

2. Radiation Protection Program

Because the mill had ceased operations and the facilities had not been used since November 1981, radiation safety operations have been limited.

J. W. Lucas was appointed as the RSO effective January 1, 1983, and reported to K. S. Watts. The licensee stated that approximately 30 workers remained on the project site.

The inspector noted that the licensee maintained limited radiation safety procedures appropriate for current activities at the site. Eleven radiation work permits had been issued for mill entries during 1983 for the purpose of mill maintenance and radiation surveys.

The licensee had performed surveys in the mill during 1982 in a manner similar to those performed when the mill was operating; however, concurrent with the issuance of License Admendment 13 during January 1983, surveys and personnel monitoring have been performed only as required during mill entries. Airborne uranium sampling in the mill during 1982 indicated levels of approximately 1 percent of the MPC. No such sampling had been performed during 1983. Radon daughter data indicated less than 0.08 WL for each measurement during 1982 and a maximum of 0.17 WL during 1983. Radon counting equipment had been calibrated during June 1983. Respiratory protection had not been used since the previous routine NRC inspection.

Routine bioassay sampling had also been terminated at the beginning of the year. The inspector noted 1982 urine bioassay data to be well below action levels. Samples had been analyzed by an external laboratory and appropriate quality assurance spikes and blanks had been submitted along with routine samples. Five workers had been subjected to in vivo lung counting during 1982; the highest result was recorded as 5.7 nanocuries uranium.

Routine contamination and external exposure rate surveys and routine use of personnel dosimeters had also been terminated as of January 1983. Data for 1982 indicated all levels to be low.

The inspector reviewed records of the last product shipment which was completed during May 1982. All work appeared to have been performed in accordance with DOT and NRC transportation regulations. The licensee stated that there had been no drummed yellowcake on site since the shipment.

3. Tailings Management and Environmental Monitoring

The inspector toured the project site, including the mill building, and observed work in progress in accordance with License Amendment 14 to accomplish interim reclamation of Tailings Pond No. 2. The licensee stated that covering of the pond with mine overburden was approximately 50 percent complete. Also observed was the rerouted Willow Springs Draw and the adjacent newly relocated mill access road. The licensee stated that this work was complete except for the installation of riprap along the channel.

The inspector also toured the areas surrounding Tailings Pond No. 1. The ground was moist in all areas due to earlier rains and snow at the time of the inspection; therefore, no blowing tailings were observed. The inspector also reviewed records of licensee tailings dam inspections and personally observed no embankment damage.

The inspector reviewed the environmental monitoring program and found it to be in accordance with License Condition 24. All samples have been analyzed by external vendors including those for radon which have been analyzed by a track etch technique. Semiannual monitoring reports have been submitted to the NRC in a timely manner pursuant to 10 CFR 40.65, and all data were noted to be below applicable NRC limits.

4. Exit Interview

The inspector met with licensee personnel referenced in Section 1 at the conclusion of the inspection and summarized the purpose, scope, and findings of the inspection.