



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

MAY 20 1992

Docket No. 40-8914

Hecla Mining Company
ATTN: Larry Drew, Manager
Environmental Affairs
6500 Mineral Drive
Box C-8000
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-1931

Dear Mr. Drew:

We have received the results of the soil samples collected during the inspection conducted on March 12, 1992, at the Johnny M Mine site located near Grants, New Mexico. The results of the sampling indicate that additional cleanup of windblown tailings is necessary in the south area, west of the west boundary fence. A copy of the results as received from Oak Ridge National Laboratories is attached. Mr. Gary Gamble, Environmental Engineer, accompanied the inspectors and also recorded sample numbers and locations during the inspection.

Soil samples were collected at three separate locations where direct gamma readings exceeded normal background readings. Soil sample No. JMM-16 was collected south of the injection well, and soil sample No. JMM-15 was collected west of the west boundary fence, near the southwest corner of the excavated area. Both of these samples, when analyzed and averaged over 100 square meters, met the cleanup standard as specified by Criterion 6 of Appendix A to 10 CFR 40. No further work is necessary in these two areas.

Soil sample No. JMM-14 was collected west of the west boundary fence and north of sampling site JMM-15. This sample was collected as a composite over a 100-square meter area and analyzed at 7.29 pCi/g radium-226. The background radium concentration for the south area was previously determined to be 1.30 pCi/g. Therefore, 5.99 pCi/g (7.29 pCi/g minus 1.30 pCi/g = 5.99 pCi/g) exceeds the cleanup standard of 5.0 pCi/g as stated in Criterion 6 and additional material must be removed for compliance.

After you have performed the appropriate cleanup work, please inform this office so that we can confirm your actions. Within 60 days of completion of cleanup, a report documenting the actions taken must be submitted to the NRC for review. The report must contain the results of all concluding radiological surveys performed to confirm post decontamination levels. Please be advised that any regrading of the decontaminated area prior to our verification survey is done at your own risk.

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PDR ADDCK 04008914
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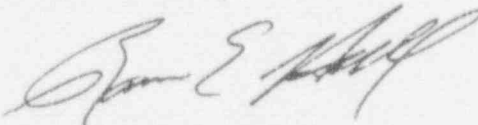
Hecia Mining Company

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MAY 20 1992

If you have any questions pertaining to tailings cleanup, please contact Dana C. Ward of my staff at (303) 231-5810.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ramon E. Hall", written in a cursive style.

Ramon E. Hall
Director

Attachment:
As stated

cc:
B. Garcia, RCPD, NM
E. Montoya, NMED

Hecla Mining Company

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MAY 20 1992

bcc:
Docket File 40-3914
PDR/DCS
URFO r/f
LJCallan, RIV
LLUR Branch, LLWM
DWard
DJacoby
8914/090E/DCW/92/05/15/L

PM: URFO *ECU*
DWard/lv
05/19/92

PM: URFO *[Signature]*
DJacoby
05/19/92

[Signature]
DD: URFO
EHawkins
05/19/92

[Signature]
D: URFO: RIV
REHall
05/20/92

Analytical Chemistry Division
Results of Analyses
Low Level Radiochemical Analysis

LLL15437

Page 1

Customer Name KONWINSKI
Request Number LLL15437
Project Number
Series
Date Received 30-Mar-1992 14:38
Charge Number 33453837
Dept Number 3345
Date of Report 17-APR-92
Approved By NA Zeng
Date 4/20/92

Customer ID
Sample Matrix
Material Description

ACD Number
Frequency
Date Sampled

MM14
SOIL
SOIL

920330-243

RA-226	TOTAL-U
270	63
+/- 30	+/- 8
BQ/KG	BQ/KG
EPA-903.0	12 31921

MM15
SOIL
SOIL

920330-244

RA-226	TOTAL-U
600	76
+/- 60	+/- 14
BQ/KG	BQ/KG
EPA-903.0	12 31921

MM16
SOIL
SOIL

920330-245

RA-226	TOTAL-U
1300	290
+/- 200	+/- 40
BQ/KG	BQ/KG
EPA-903.0	12 31921

End of data for Request Number LLL15437

Total pages = 1

Cust. Copy ☒

File Copy