



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 29, 1996

Mr. Richard Sena, Acting Director  
Environmental Restoration Division  
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action  
Project  
U.S. Department of Energy  
2155 Louisiana NE, Suite 4000  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

SUBJECT: ACTION ITEMS RESULTING FROM JULY 25 AND AUGUST 8, 1996 CONFERENCE  
CALLS ON THE PROPOSED GROUNDWATER PROTECTION STRATEGY FOR THE  
URANIUM MILL TAILINGS SITE AT GREEN RIVER, UTAH

Dear Mr. Sena:

On July 25 and August 8, 1996, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors held telephone conference calls to discuss the NRC staff's comments on DOE's proposal to revise the groundwater protection strategy for the Green River, Utah, Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project site. The NRC staff's comments were contained as an enclosure to a letter from me to you, dated July 3, 1996.

Certain action items were agreed to between the NRC and DOE staffs as a result of these conference calls. The DOE agreed to revise the current draft of the proposed groundwater protection strategy, in accordance with discussion during the calls, and to resubmit the strategy for NRC staff review and concurrence. If the NRC staff concurs, the final groundwater protection strategy will be incorporated in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Green River site, as a revision to Appendix E of the RAP.

The DOE also agreed to provide, by separate letter, an analysis and accompanying discussion addressing the increasing trends of constituents, as compared with the current site-specific groundwater protection standards, which have been measured in Point of Compliance and other groundwater monitoring wells at the site. These trends, which may be disposal cell-related, were noted by the NRC staff in its comments, as well as by the State of Utah in its technical report provided to DOE by letter dated January 8, 1996.

For its part, the NRC staff agreed to respond to DOE's letter of May 22, 1996, in which DOE proposed a revised network of monitoring wells to be used in defining background water quality conditions at the site. The NRC staff considers, however, that this response will need to await its review of the revised groundwater protection strategy, because DOE's supporting information for using these wells will be contained in the revised document. The date for DOE's resubmittal of the strategy has not yet been determined, and therefore, a completion date for the NRC staff's response to the May 1996 letter will have to be determined following receipt of the revised strategy.

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R. Sena

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If you have any questions concerning this subject letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager for the Green River site, Mr. James Park, at (301) 415-6699.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charlotte Abrams For J. Holonich

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: S. Hamp, DOE Alb  
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