



Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
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*Identical ltr. sent
to DEM*

Mr. Leo Higginbotham
Chief, Low Level Waste and Uranium
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U.S. NRC, Mail Stop 623-SS
Washington, DC 20555

MAY 7 1985

WM Record File

WM Project 39
Docket No.

PDR ☒

LPDR

Distribution: *Waisfield*
LBA DEM Gillen
GENUENOLI Sollenberger
(Return to WM, 623 SS) *L3*

Dear Mr. Higginbotham:

Enclosed is the UMTRA Project Monthly Report for March. We have now resumed construction activities at Canonsburg; however, weather conditions have not permitted us to go full steam ahead.

Highlights for March were as follows:

Shiprock's final plans and specifications were issued.

The Navajo Nation agreed to an accelerated schedule on Tuba City, Monument Valley, and Mexican Hat.

DOE's Office of Inspector General (IG) initiated a formal audit of the Vicinity Properties inclusion process.

I hope you continue to find the progress report useful, and if you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 844-3941.

Sincerely,

John G. Themelis, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:
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UMTRA PROJECT
MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
TO THE STATES/TRIBES
MARCH 1985

CANONSBURG

Some site and vicinity property remedial action work has resumed; however, work on the cell foundation and haul road repairs had to be suspended due to saturated soil conditions.

Additional discussions including a meeting in Silver Spring on March 27, were held with NRC regarding proposed changes to the Remedial Action Plan (RAP). Some of these proposed changes were submitted to NRC in December without obtaining resolution. Lack of resolution could adversely affect the implementation of upcoming site activities. Good progress was made in resolving the NRC concerns.

A meeting was held at DOE/AL on March 25 to discuss coordination of disposal of hazardous wastes at the processing site. The discussions centered on history of site operations, types of hazardous waste encountered, and coordination and planning for disposal of the wastes.

SALT LAKE CITY

On March 15 a meeting was held with the State, the Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC), and the Project Office to discuss comments on the Vitro/Clive health and safety plan and to provide the State with specifics of DOE overview of the remedial action construction. The State is making appropriate revisions to the health and safety plan, and will transmit them to the Project Office in April. Discussions also occurred at the meeting on excavation control and verification measurements and requirements for final site completion reports.

The Vitro Task Force met on March 14 to review the status of the State's remedial action contractor, Argee Corporation. Argee's final operations plan for remedial action will be submitted on April 15. They have begun decontamination of the staging area at the Vitro site and have also begun excavation at the Clive site. Relocation of the contaminated material is scheduled to begin on July 1.

M-K continued their remedial action effort on the complex vicinity properties at Ensign Shoe, Hertz Truck, and White Truck. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on a bid package of 11 new vicinity properties.

SHIPROCK

The final plans and specifications for Phase II remedial action have been issued for bids, and the sand and gravel permit for M-K was approved by the Tribe. Phase II remedial action work is scheduled to begin at the processing site on June 1. The RFP was issued for the first bid package of 12 vicinity properties for work to commence in May.

The RAP is at the Navajo Department of Justice for final concurrence and is scheduled to be sent to the Chairman's Office for signature in early April.

DURANGO

The Environmental Report for initiation of vicinity property remedial action was approved by Headquarters and was transmitted to the State and local task force for their information.

M-K is currently mobilizing for the vicinity property construction effort to start this spring. Remedial action on three properties: 1) Municipal Swimming Pool, 2) Federal Lumber, and 3) Municipal Park, is being expedited at the request of the City of Durango.

A Project Office representative attended the Task Force meeting on March 13 and assured local residents that alternative options presented in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be retained in the final EIS, and the current working schedule for the EIS and Record of Decision should not delay start of remedial action next year. An additional public meeting is scheduled in April to present status of engineering evaluations requested as a result of draft EIS comments. There are still some local residents pushing for stabilization in place (SIP). Senator Hart was notified of these feelings during his 50-minute meeting in Durango on March 9.

GUNNISON

A meeting was held with State and local officials and the public in Gunnison on March 27 and 28. The community is opposed to SIP and relocation to East Gold Basin and favors relocation to Chance Gulch or a more remote site. Based on this strong local feeling, the State may request DOE to select additional sites for stabilization studies.

GRAND JUNCTION

The proposed designs for the three options (SIP, Cheney, and Two Roads) to be identified in the draft EIS will be presented to the State, EPA, and NRC (Denver) on April 19. The public scoping meeting for proposed changes to the preliminary draft EIS will be held in late April or early May.

Bendix vicinity property activities at Grand Junction are running slightly behind schedule and continue to be a concern to the Project Office. The following summarizes the FY 1985 status.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Planned to date</u>	<u>Actual to date</u>	<u>Planned FY 85</u>
Radiological and engineering assessments	108	51	354
Construction initiated	20	14	121

RIFLE

The alternate site selection process to identify a relocation site within 5-7 miles of Rifle was initiated. The impact of adding a new site to the EIS on the NEPA and design schedules is still being evaluated.

RIVERTON

The TAC is continuing to work on responses to comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The results of the additional hydrology investigations are due in early April. A Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 8.

TUBA CITY/MEXICAN HAT/MONUMENT VALLEY

The Navajo Nation has agreed with the Project Office's proposed plan to accelerate the schedules on all three sites. The detailed schedules will be developed and sent to the Navajo and Hopi Tribes.

LAKEVIEW

The Project Manager participated in a meeting on March 5 with the Director of the Oregon Department of Energy and Governor Atiyeh regarding the preferred option for the EA. The Governor concurs with the selection of the Collins Ranch site. This meeting was preceded by an Oregon Department of Energy and Project Office briefing for selected members of the State's Energy Facility Siting Council on March 1, at which the Siting Council members fully endorsed the Collins Ranch site.

On March 26 the Lakeview Task Force met, and on March 27 two public meetings were held and a presentation was made to the Lake County Rotary Club. These gatherings involved presentations on the preferred course of action (relocation to the Collins Ranch site) and a question and answer period. The meetings were well attended and went extremely well.

In contrast to the excellent State and local relations that have developed in Lakeview, a problem has surfaced with Mr. Collins, the owner of the prime disposal site. Sergeant, Hauskins, and Beckwith (SH&B) of the TAC team accidentally started a fire on Collins' property late last summer, and several hundred acres were burned. SH&B's insurance company originally offered Mr. Collins \$15,000 and increased it to \$22,000. Mr. Collins originally submitted a claim for approximately \$370,000 and decreased it to \$37,000. Since little progress seemed to be occurring to close this \$15,000 gap (\$37,000 minus \$22,000), Mr. Collins has filed suit against Jacobs Engineering demanding \$370,000 and doubling this amount to approximately \$750,000 based on a double indemnity provision of Oregon law. Every effort is being made for an out of court settlement.

AMBROSIA LAKE

Mr. Robert McNeill, staff assistant to Governor Anaya, was briefed by the Project Manager on the opportunity for accelerating the remedial action schedule. Mr. McNeill fully supports the accelerated schedule. In order to acceler-

ate the schedule the Cooperative Agreement must be executed and the State must appropriate funds to support the RAC engineering efforts through June 1986.

FALLS CITY

On March 19 Project Office staff personnel met with State of Texas officials to discuss the DOE/Texas Cooperative Agreement. The main concerns of the State are costs and the State's profile in the Project. Texas wishes to have a significant role in the option analysis and selection process. The State feels that if the disposal site is contributed, then it should count as part of their share as an in-kind contribution. In addition, the State wants to be involved in the preparation of documents rather than merely reviewing draft documents. A revised Cooperative Agreement addressing their comments is to be transmitted to the State by the middle of April.

Meetings were also held among the Texas Department of Health and Department of Water Resources, Solution Engineering/Basic Resources (which own the Falls City site), and DOE. The item of discussion was Solution's interim cleanup activities at the processing site. The State wants Solution to do much more cleanup work than they have been willing to perform. A closure plan will be submitted by Solution by the end of May, but it is not certain at this time if it will satisfy the State's concerns.

GENERAL

On March 20 the IG'S Office initiated a formal audit of the vicinity properties inclusion process as a follow-up to the survey conducted late last year.

The Project Office is reviewing contractor procedures for emergency response and plans for implementing the procedures. Specific procedures will cover types of incidents likely to occur at Project sites and vicinity properties. Guidance will be forthcoming, and the Emergency Response section of the Project Environmental Health and Safety Plan will be reviewed.

A program review of the M-K vicinity properties process was held on March 19. A number of action items were identified which will be included in a summary of the program review.

Members of the DOE/PE Assurance Program for Remedial Actions conducted pre-appraisal visits to Grand Junction and Salt Lake City between March 19-21 to review vicinity property remedial actions. The overall Project appraisal will be initiated on April 22 in Albuquerque.

The Project Surveillance and Maintenance Plan was revised to reflect DOE-HQ comments, and was transmitted to NRC on March 27. The Project Licensing Plan will not be revised until site certification procedures are reviewed by DOE-HQ and NRC.