

December 26, 1968

J. R. Roeder, Chief, Materials Inspection and
Enforcement Branch, Division of Compliance, HQ

INQUIRY MEMORANDUM - ATLAS CORPORATION, ATLAS MINERALS,
MOAB, UTAH - LICENSE NO. SUA-917 - FIRE

At 9:00 a.m., on December 25, 1968, William Badger, Chief Metallurgist of the licensee, telephoned D. I. Walker, Director, Region IV, to advise that a fire had broken out at the mill at approximately 4:00 a.m., that date and had been brought under control by 8:00 a.m. He stated the fire started presumably by an electric arcing in the main mill building and had spread to the solvent extraction building and part of the vanadium extraction area. He stated that a drag classifier in the main building had been destroyed as well as some processing tanks. There were no injuries to personnel.

Badger stated local fire equipment was fighting the blaze, and water from this, running off from the mill had followed a dry wash down to the Colorado River. He stated the runoff contained no organics (since no solvent tanks had ruptured at that time). He stated a temporary dike had been built to stop the flow to the river and that samples of river water had been taken at several check-points downstream, which when analyzed, will show any increase in radioactive elements. None is expected since the flow was small and quickly stopped. Badger stated news reporters were on the scene.

News reports of the fire were on the 9:00 a.m. radio broadcasts in the Denver area. A news story which estimated the damage at one million dollars appeared in the Denver Post for December 25 (copy attached).

Dr. Walker advised Mr. Marshall Rainey of The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration of the incident at 9:15 a.m. Rainey agreed to notify the Utah State Health Department.

Region IV commenced an investigation of the incident at Moab, 8:30 a.m., December 26. A report will be submitted by February 15, 1969.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
BY JOHN J. WARD

John J. Ward
Investigation Specialist

OFFICE ▶	CO:IV					
SURNAME ▶	JJWard					
DATE ▶	12/26/68					