

May 14, 1997

Ronald S. Kowalewski, Program Manager
Grand Junction Office Team
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20874-1290

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON WORKING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR BABCOCK
& WILCOX SHALLOW LAND DISPOSAL AREA

Dear Mr. Kowalewski:

I am responding to your undated letter transmitted by facsimile on May 6, 1997, which forwarded your draft comments on the working draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Babcock & Wilcox Shallow Land Disposal Area. We will consider your comments in the preparation of the draft EIS. Our response to your comments will be forwarded separately.

In addition, you requested an additional 21 days to complete your review of the document. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) became a cooperating agency in the development of this EIS late in the development process. Because of this situation and our schedule commitments, we cannot extend the schedule as you have requested. However, any additional comments submitted by DOE will be considered during the resolution of public comments received as a result of publishing the draft EIS. We look forward to your continued involvement in this process.

If you have any questions, please call me at (301) 415-7298.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Robert A. Nelson, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Regulatory
Issues Section
Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "RA Nelson", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Nelson, Chief
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Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
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