

Marvin M. Mann, Asst. Director, Compliance
Division of Inspection, Washington, D. C.

June 3, 1959

Donald I. Walker, Director, Division of
Licensee Inspection, Idaho Operations Office

INVESTIGATION REPORT OF DURANGO MILL FIRE, VANADIUM CORPORATION OF
AMERICA, DURANGO, COLORADO, LICENSE NO. R-102

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Transmitted herewith is the investigation report of subject fire.

It appears obvious that the fire was caused by a customary operation in the mill, which cannot be construed to be a good operation from a safety standpoint. It does not appear that the fire resulted from any item or items of noncompliance with 10 CFR 20 or the conditions of their licenses.

Though surveys have not been made to bear it out, I am sure that the use of this open flame for drying the final product would generate greatly increased concentrations of uranium in the refinery atmosphere. It would be my estimate that probably none of the personnel were exposed to concentrations of airborne uranium as a result of the fire which were above concentrations that are normally present.

You will note a discrepancy between the monetary damage in Appendix B and that in the report. The \$5,000 figure is a revision of the original \$8,000 estimate and was supplied by the Technical Services Branch, Division of Source Material Procurement, Grand Junction Operations Office, on about May 26, 1959, at my request.

Unless your office has further questions or desires amplification of any of the enclosed material, I will consider the investigation of the fire complete.

Enclosure:
Investigation Report (4 cys)



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