

Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

J. A. McBride, Director (Signed) J. A. McBride
Division of Materials Licensing

FEB 12 1967

URANIUM TAILINGS PILE AT SLICK ROCK, COLORADO

DML:DFH

Attached for your information is a copy of a memo route slip, with attachments, from the Director, Region IV, CO, to Hq., CO.

Region IV has reported the existence of a 30,000-ton tailings pile containing 0.074% uranium on Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) property at Slick Rock, Colorado. The pile apparently originated in the Manhattan District days and was sold by the AEC in 1957, to UCC along with other property in the Slick Rock area. In 1957, UCC built a uranium upgrader at Slick Rock (about one mile from the site on which the subject tailings are stored) which was operated until December, 1961 under AEC License No. R-105. This license, which was last renewed in 1958, is still in effect by virtue of a timely application for license renewal dated October 30, 1959.

We do not know of any other similar situations or why Grand Junction transferred the pile to UCC without requiring UCC to obtain an AEC license. We do not believe License R-105 covers the subject tailings since it is specifically stated in the license that, "This license extends to your processing plants located at Rifle, Uravan and Slick Rock, Colorado, and Green River, Utah." (underlining added)

The pile contains nearly 0.5% vanadium and would appear to have commercial value. We have discussed the existence of the pile with Mr. Robert Beverly of UCC who has confirmed the existence of the pile at Slick Rock but indicated UCC has no plans to reprocess or transfer the tailings.

The above information has been transmitted to the Enforcement Branch, SLR, for appropriate action. I will keep you informed of significant developments relative to this matter.

Attachment:
Memo route slip dated 12-27-66, w/attachments

cc: C. K. Beck, REG
C. L. Henderson, REG
E. Price, SLR
D. Low, CO

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