

JUN 21 1988

W. John Arthur, III, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dear Mr. Arthur:

By letter dated June 8, 1988, DOE submitted responses and supporting technical documents addressing the 13 open issues identified in the NRC's draft Green River Technical Evaluation Report (TER) and discussed in the meeting on April 21, 1988. Although the NRC staff review of this material is continuing, our initial review has indicated the material provided in response to some of the open items is incomplete.

During the April 21, 1988 meeting, the NRC staff discussed the significance of the open items in the on-going review process and the information that would be required to reach closure. First, we indicated that DOE should define the action for which conditional concurrence would be requested (e.g., proceeding with tailings placement, earthwork, etc.). Second, based on the proposed action, DOE should define and support the degree of resolution needed for each open item in order to achieve NRC's conditional concurrence. Specifically, DOE should either provide sufficient technical information to close out an open item or provide the rationale behind any decision to postpone resolution of an item or part of an item and show that the postponement will not adversely affect the ability of the remedial action to comply with the EPA standards.

The NRC staff's initial review of DOE's submittal concluded that the DOE responses that proposed postponement of open items are incomplete. The NRC's comments resulting from this initial review are provided in Enclosure 1. This was discussed with your staff in a conference call on June 17, 1988.

W. John Arthur, III

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The NRC is continuing with the evaluation of the technical information provided by DOE in response to the remaining open items. But until DOE provides the information as discussed in the enclosure, the NRC will be unable to provide a conditional concurrence on the proposed action as requested. If you have any questions regarding the above information please contact Sandra L. Wastler of my staff at extension 492-0582 (FTS).

Paul H. Lohaus, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste
Management and Decommissioning

Enclosure: As Stated

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