



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION

P.O. Box 968, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968
(505) 827-2946

TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

DENISE D. FORT
DIRECTOR

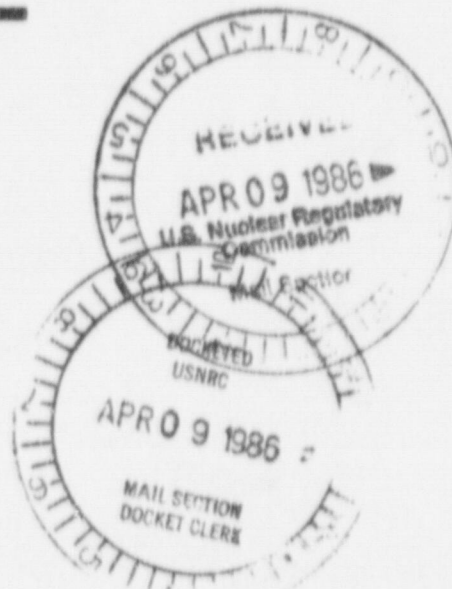
MEMORANDUM

TO: Terrence Morgan, Acting Program Manager,
Uranium Licensing Section

FROM: *BAG* Benito J. Garcia, Health Program Manager
Licensing and Registration Section

DATE: April 2, 1986

SUBJECT: Previous Mill Inspections and Future Need for Inspection of
Uranium Mill Licensees



During the active operation of uranium mills and associated activity licenses, such facilities were inspected at six month intervals. The inspections included review of operations for compliance with New Mexico Radiation Protection Regulations (NMRPR) and with specific license conditions. The inspection also included review of procedures and operations for radiation safety and good health physics practice whether or not these operations and procedures were regulated by NMRPR or specific license conditions.

After activity in the Grants Mineral Belt dropped off and mills and associated licensees went into inactive or standby phases inspections were conducted on a yearly basis. Inspections still covered the same areas as before and were conducted in the same manner.

The following list gives the last inspection date of each facility with active license and my perception of the need for future inspection. The inspection I am referring to does not include the environmental sampling at site boundaries nor any reference to mill tailings impoundments inspections and review for need of stabilization and reclamation. Inspections in this sense refer to the on-site facility radiation and health physics safety reviews for on-site personnel. Off-site impacts from releases of radiation and/or radioactive material should continue to be monitored and evaluated.

Mill SUA-708 (AEC license) Homestake Mining Last inspected 5/85. Next inspection due middle of 1986. Future inspections should be conducted as before to include health physics, radiation safety and environmental release concerns.

OFFICIAL DOCKET COPY

9801130130 860402
PDR STPRG ESGNM
PDR

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

495

Previous Mill Inspections and Future Need
for Inspection of Uranium Mill Licensees
April 2, 1986
Page 2

Mill NM-SOH-ML-KI-03 SOHIO L-Bar Kennecott last inspected 1/85. Inspection due and should be conducted ASAP. Future inspections should include health physics, radiation safety, and environmental release concerns. This licensee is currently considering reclamation activities and possible sale of holdings to another company.

Mill NM-GUL-ML-00 Gulf Minerals (San Mateo). No inspection of this licensee necessary since the license was issued but the facility has never been built. No future inspections necessary unless the facility is constructed.

Mill SUA-1082 UNC Old Phillips Mill last inspected 8/84. This license covers the existing old phillips tailings pile which is being reclaimed by DOE and the state under the UMTRA. The state will continue to interact with DOE in approving the final reclamation activities at the site prior to NRC licensure of the reclaimed site. No conventional future inspections are necessary.

Mill NM-UNC-ML-17 UNC Churchrock last inspection 7/85. Next inspection due middle of 1986. Future inspections should be conducted as before to include radiation safety, health physics, and environmental release concerns. This licensee has begun to dismantle the mill and considering reclamation activities.

Mill SUA-616 Quivira (Kerr McGee) last inspected 2/86. Next inspection due late 1986 or early 1987. Inspection should continue as before to include radiation safety, health physics, and environmental release concerns.

Mill NM-BRC-ML-02 Bokum Resources. No health physics, radiation safety or environmental release inspections are necessary for the mill facility. The facility was built but never placed into operation. Inspections will be necessary in the future if the mill becomes operational.

In-situ NM-MOB-UL-RI-01 Mobil (Section 9). No inspection necessary. License issued but no activity ever occurred under this license. Inspections will be necessary should activity be initiated under the license.

In-situ NM-MOB2-UL-00 Mobil (Monument) Last inspected 4/85. Due for inspection in the middle of 1986. Inspections should continue as before at this pilot project facility to include radiation safety, health physics, and environmental release concerns.

In-situ NM-MOB3-UL-00 Mobile (South Trend Development McKinley County). This license was issued but no activity has ever occurred under this license. Inspections would be necessary should activity occur under this license.

Previous Mill Inspections and Future Need
for Inspection of Uranium Mill Licensees
April 2, 1986
Page 3

In-Situ Heap Leach NM-GRA-UL-06 Grace Energy Company. No on-going inspection program for this licensee. Final clean up criteria are being considered for final reclamation and consequent termination of license.

Mine Backfill NM-RED-MB-10 Johnny M Mine (Panchers Exploration). No on-going inspection program for this licensee. Final clean up criteria are being considered for final reclamation and consequent termination of license.

Should you require further information or clarification on this subject, please contact me at your convenience.

BJG/mp

cc: Mike Brown, RPB, EID
Bill Floyd, RPB, EID
John Martinez, RPB, EID
Eloy Montoya, RPB, EID
John Parker, RPB, EID
Mike Taylor, RPB, EID
Bob Doda, Region IV, NRC
Dale Smith, NRC, Denver
Richard Holland, EID