

February 24, 1982

Mr. Gerald W. Stewart
Health Program Manager
Environmental Improvement Division
P. O. Box 968
725 St. Michael's Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

RE: MILL LICENSE AMENDMENT

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The Anaconda Minerals Company respectfully requests a modification of Radioactive Material License No. SUA-647 Amendment No. 19, Condition C. The present condition requires stack sampling on the unloading hopper, grinding mill, bucking room, yellowcake packaging and yellowcake dryer. The Company is no longer processing dry ore and is in the process of mothballing the unloading, grinding, leaching and CCD circuits.

The Anaconda Minerals Company requests that the requirement for stack sampling at the unloading hopper, grinding mill and bucking room be cancelled. There will be no input of ore at the front end of the mill circuit. The SX, yellowcake precipitation, packaging and drying will continue for an indefinite period of time. The liquid in the evaporation ponds will be pumped back to the SX where some of the remaining uranium values will be reclaimed.

The Anaconda Minerals Company is also going to drill two wells in the existing tailings pond to retrieve tailings liquid. The liquid tailings solution will then be pumped to the SX. This will provide the two following benefits:

1. The head pressure to the underground aquifer will be reduced. With the reduced head pressure, a reduced level of contaminants will be introduced into the underground aquifers.
2. Uranium values will be reduced from the recycled liquid tailings solution.

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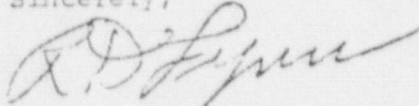
The liquid effluent from the SX will be pumped to the evaporation ponds. The liquid tailings solution will stay in the evaporation pond until the remaining values are concentrated due to evaporation. The liquid will then, again, be pumped back to the SX to reclaim a portion of the uranium values.

All radiological safety and environmental monitoring programs will be continued except, in some cases, at a reduced level. The only changes will be in the following programs:

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
TLD	Smaller number of employees badged.
Bioassay	Fewer employees regularly sampled.
Radon Progeny	Fewer regularly sampled locations-- mothballed areas will be sampled and ventilated prior to entry by employees.
Occupational Airborne U	Fewer regularly sampled locations.
Stack Sampling	Fewer stacks to sample.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated. If additional information or clarification is required, please advise.

Sincerely,



R. D. Lynn
General Manager

mls

bcc: MAS
CCH
DLR