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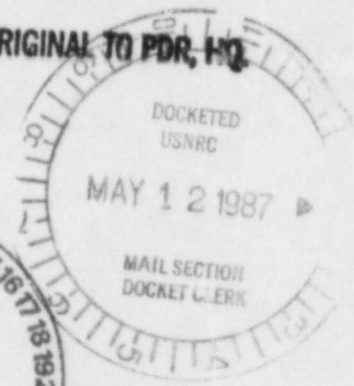
WM-73



Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

MAY 8 1987

RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ



FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Edward F. Hawkins, Chief
Licensing Branch 1
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
730 Simms St. Suite 100
Golden, Colorado 80401

Dear Ed,

Enclosed for your review and concurrence are five (5) copies of the following documents for the Tuba City, Arizona, uranium mill tailings site:

- o Final Remedial Action Plan, dated May 1987.
- o Final design for review calculations, Volume V Supplemental, dated April 1987.

This information, when combined with the documents transmitted to you on November 19, 1986, represents a complete final design for the Tuba City UMTRA site. All information required for your review and concurrence should be in your office at this time.

As discussed with Tom Olsen of your staff on May 7, 1987, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the BIA have accepted the minor design changes made to reduce infiltration to an acceptable level. These changes were presented to the Tribes, the BIA and the NRC on April 15, 1987, in Denver and are incorporated in the enclosed documents. No further design changes are expected.

During a May 1, 1987, meeting in which the Tribes and the BIA indicated their acceptance of the design changes, the DOE agreed to construct test plots to verify that a saturated conductivity of 10^{-8} cm/sec for the radon barrier material can be achieved in the field. A meeting is scheduled for May 19, 1987, to work out details of the test plots with the Tribes and the BIA. It is anticipated that the test plots will be constructed immediately after a remedial action contract is awarded and the contractor mobilizes. Details regarding construction of the test plots will be forwarded to the NRC as soon as they are available, and will be included in the published version of the Remedial Action Plan. During the

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May 7 phone conversation with Deborah Mann, Tom Olsen indicated that the NRC did not need to be present at the May 19 meeting where details of the test plots will be agreed on. Please feel free to attend the meeting if you decide it would be beneficial.

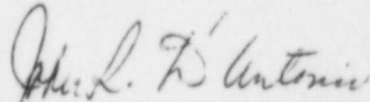
Again, let me stress that the design is complete and final at this time. Since changes from the package submitted to you in November 1986 are minor, we believe that the NRC should be able to expedite this final review. We are therefore requesting concurrence on the Tuba City final RAP/final design package by June 1, 1987. This date is consistent with schedules transmitted to you in previous correspondence.

As always, these documents are part of the deliberative process and are not to be released to the general public at this time.

We will be contacting you on May 15, 1987, to verify that the package you receive is complete. Please give the documents a thorough review prior to that date to insure that you have enough information to complete your review by June 1, 1987.

Any questions regarding this transmittal should be directed to Deborah Mann at FTS 846-1243.

Sincerely,



John R. D'Antonio, Operations Group Leader
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

Enclosures:

cc w/o enclosures:
D. Gillen, NRC-HQ
T. Olsen, NRC-URVO