



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office

P.O. Box 5400

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

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Mr. Malcolm Knapp
Chief, Low Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery, Recovery Projects Branch
U. S. NRC, Mail Stop 623-SS
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Springs,
Maryland, DC 20910

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Enclosed is the monthly status report for March, 1986. We were able to go back to work at Canonsburg after a long winter, and begin the final site grading. Tailings removal at Salt Lake City also got underway. Remedial action at Shiprock continued full steam. The Oregon Legislature provided matching funds for the Lakeview clean-up work scheduled to start this June.

The Grand Junction Draft EIS was distributed at the end of the month, with the preferred alternative being relocation of the tailings to a disposal site 18 miles southeast of town. BLM land withdrawals for the Grand Junction, Rifle, and Gunnison alternate disposal sites are in various stages of processing.

Several public meetings and Task Force meetings were scheduled to take place in early April. I'll fill you in on these next month.

Sincerely,

John G. Themelis, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

1 Enclosure

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PDR WASTE
WM-39 PDR

WM Record File

WM Project 39

Docket No.

PDR ✓

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Distribution:

MRK

GG Engholm
(Return to WM, 623-SS)

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STATES/TRIBES MONTHLY STATUS REPORT
MARCH, 1986

CANONSBURG

Final grading and punch list work at the processing site was begun with a scheduled completion by the end of April.

The final Completion Report will be delivered to the Project Office by Morrison Knudsen-Ferguson (MK-F) on April 3. One round of review by DOE Headquarters, Project Office and the Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC) will precede transmittal in mid-May to the NRC and State of Pennsylvania.

A vicinity property bid package is under development for four new properties recommended for inclusion, as the result of ORNL final surveys. Sixteen properties are currently under construction as a result of previous bid package awards. Work at the Burrell site continued, as weather improved, and is now estimated to be approximately 35 percent complete.

SALT LAKE CITY

The State of Utah and Argee Corporation reached a negotiated settlement on Argee's claims, thus avoiding arbitration. Key settlement terms are: (1) a payment of \$3.625M to Argee; and (2) agreement by Argee to assume all risk for completion of the work. Details of the settlement are being worked out between the State and Argee.

Argee has resumed transportation of tailings to Clive and will use two 75 car trains and work 20 hrs/day to accelerate the tailings relocation.

The State of Utah has reached agreement with the property owner of Fire Engineering for buyout. Total settlement including relocation is under \$300K.

Remedial action on the dry storage area at R&W Dairy is complete. The revised appraisal is under review by MK-F. The owner of Mountain States Plumbing completed erection of steel and pre-cast panels.

Work on field surveys for Radiological Engineering Assessment (REA) development continued. MK-F is developing the next bid package for 20 properties.

SHIPROCK

A review of the MK-F radon cover thickness calculations by the TAC has been concluded. MK-F is preparing a package recommending a reduction to approximately 6.3 feet from the present design of 7.0 feet.

The report on the floodplain ground water problem was formally transmitted to NRC and the Navajo Nation, with comments due by March 31.

Excavation of contaminated material at the site is 98.6 percent complete. Remaining cleanup areas consist of haul roads, the control area, and isolated "hot spots." Final grading of upper tailings continued throughout the month and is now 50.8 percent complete. Placement of one foot of radon barrier material on the upper slopes was completed except for an area on the west side to remain open until contaminated material placement is complete. Based on estimated final quantities, site remedial action is 58 percent complete.

DURANGO

The Record of Decision of the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is expected to be signed by the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy on April 2.

On March 12, the Colorado Wildlife Commission gave formal approval on the land acquisition and wildlife mitigation package for the Bodo Canyon disposal site. Upon completion of surface and mineral appraisal currently being conducted, DOE will transmit the agreement to Division of Wildlife and the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) for signature.

GUNNISON

A write-up describing the alternative East Gold Basin designs and ground water impact analyses was prepared in draft. The document is being revised and should be completed by April 4.

GRAND JUNCTION

The draft EIS was distributed on March 28. A Task Force meeting and press conference announcing the distribution of the draft EIS will be held on April 2.

The results of a value engineering session held on March 11-12 were presented to the Project Manager, and a potential savings of \$5.7 million was identified.

Vicinity property activities remain on or ahead of schedule in all milestone areas except cumulative construction starts which are behind by 16 properties (29.1 percent) relative to a planned total of 55 properties. This negative variance will be recouped when a current procurement package of 70-plus properties is awarded in April. Eighteen contracts were awarded in March, for a total of 52 contracts awarded fiscal year-to-date. Construction on two new properties was started this month, for a total of 39 fiscal year-to-date. A total of 29 are currently in construction with four properties in remediation and 25 properties awaiting the owner's signing of the Completion Report.

RIFLE

Work is continuing on the EIS. The TAC has completed work on the Engineering Fact Sheet for all alternatives. A Task Force meeting will be held in Rifle on April 10.

RIVERTON

Wyoming officials advised that they have received proposals for independent review of key technical issues associated with stabilization-in-place. Their review is expected to be complete in May. A meeting between Governor Herschler and R.G. Romatowski to further discuss the preferred option was tentatively planned for late June or early July.

Review of the American Nuclear Corporation (ANC) proposal to relocate the tailings to its licensed mill was initiated and an analysis will be transmitted to headquarters by mid-April.

TUBA CITY

Most of the comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) have been received from reviewing agencies, and are currently under review. The Hopi UMTRA Manager was given an introduction to radiation training by MK-F.

MEXICAN HAT/MONUMENT VALLEY

The combined draft EA and draft RAPs were issued for agency and tribe review. Comments are due back the first week of May.

LAKEVIEW

All final design comments were received and transmitted to MK-F, who submitted the bid package to DOE for signature on March 24. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the main construction package will be issued on April 4. The RFP's for the fencing package will be issued the week of April 7. A pre-bid conference for both packages will take place in Lakeview on April 16.

The Oregon legislature has released \$1.054 million to cover the State's cost-share through June 1987.

AMBROSIA LAKE

A meeting was held on March 25 with representatives of the State of New Mexico to discuss policy issues raised by the State's comments on the working draft EA. Most issues were satisfactorily resolved.

NATURITA/SLICK ROCK

The draft Comparative Analysis of Disposal Site Alternatives Report (CADSAR) will be finalized and transmitted to the Project Office the first week in April. A Task Force meeting and public meeting will be held on April 8.

GENERAL

FY 1986 Funding. In response to Headquarters request the Project Office identified work that could be accomplished if additional FY 1986 funds were made available. Probability of additional funding, however, appears low.

Radon Monitoring Responsibilities. Beginning in FY 87 outdoor radon monitoring responsibilities at the Project sites will be as follows: (1) TAC will prepare site radon monitoring plans and conduct one-year pre-remedial action monitoring, (2) RAC will conduct radon monitoring during and after construction, as applicable, and (3) TMC will provide calibration support for radon monitoring contractors. Contractors responsible for radon monitoring will be required to issue brief quarterly summary reports, and the radon monitoring data obtained during remedial action will be incorporated in the UMTRA Project Annual Environmental Monitoring Report.

BLM Land Withdrawals in Colorado. Meetings were held between DOE and BLM-Colorado on March 13, regarding status of Project related land withdrawals in Colorado. DOE will proceed with land withdrawals for Cheney Reservoir and Two Road sites for Grand Junction and will provide BLM with an application for the Gunnison and Rifle potential disposal sites before May 1, 1986. A Project briefing will be presented to the Colorado State Director of BLM in early June 1986.

Project Annual Environmental Monitoring Summary. The draft annual Environmental Monitoring Summaries for Canonsburg, Shiprock, and Salt Lake City will be combined for issuance as a single document. The draft report will be submitted to DOE/AL for review the week of March 24.

IG Audit of Vicinity Properties Inclusions. The Project Office participated with IRED in the closeout conference on the subject audit. The Project Office feels its concerns and opinions are adequately reflected in the IG's final report. The report will be forwarded to the IG/HQ for final review and publication.