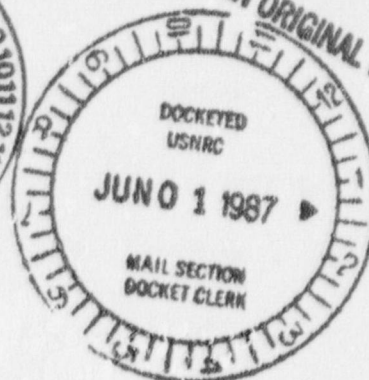


ANACONDA Minerals Company
555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone 303 293 4000

0400 8902 1500

May 28, 1987

Mr. Harry Pettingill
Chief, Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 25325
Denver, Colorado 80225



40-8902
RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR. 40.



RE: License No. SUA-1470
Docket No. 40-8902

Dear Mr. Pettingill:

This is in response to your May 8, 1987 letter regarding tailings interim stabilization at the Anaconda Minerals Company, Bluewater Uranium Mill.

The geotextile test cover proposed by Anaconda is to provide information on construction materials, techniques and slime behavior during grading activities over the slime tailings. The use of a geotextile is expected to provide a means to access and cover the slimes area and begin surcharging in the near future rather than waiting for consolidation as inferred in your letter. We agree with USNRC technical staff that no long term structural integrity would be expected to be gained by use of the geosynthetic material.

The geotextile test cover is scheduled to begin in September, 1987 and construction is to be completed within approximately two months. Data will continue to be collected through the remainder of this year. Based on the results of the test, Anaconda expects to submit a detailed slime cover program to your office by February 1, 1988.

As you requested, attached is a copy of Anaconda's tentative Bluewater Mill Reclamation Schedule. The schedule depicts major tasks to be completed and the estimated time to complete each task. This schedule considers approvals, contract bidding and safe, feasible construction times. In general, mill demolition and grading activities are to begin the third quarter of 1988 and all other reclamation activities will follow. A nine-month consolidation period is planned between the initial loading of the slimes and placement of the final cover. This period could vary considerably with the behavior of the slimes after surcharging. Consolidation and environmental monitoring will continue a minimum of three years after reclamation activity is completed.

We hope this information is responsive to the comments expressed in your letter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (303)293-7591 or Christopher Sanchez in Grants at (505)876-2211.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Bergstrom

Paul D. Bergstrom
Project Manager

PDB:nc

Attachment

FEE NOT REQUIRED

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By *Mary C. Hood*

Add Info

87-671

8706230245 870528
PDR ADDCK 04008902
PDR

BLUEWATER RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

Status as of 01/01/87

