

Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400

MAR 11 1998

Mr. Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Office of Nuclear Materials
Safety and Safeguards Mail Stop T7J9
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2747

Dear Mr. Holonich:

I appreciated your letter dated February 23, 1998, restating your strong commitment to support the U.S. Department of Energy in meeting its September 30, 1998, deadline for completion of the uranium mill tailings reclamation work. During the past several weeks, I have challenged my staff and our contractors to do everything practical to improve the Maybell and Naturita schedules. The results of this effort are reflected in the attached milestone dates.

The revised site project schedules have new dates indicating when DOE will deliver documents to NRC for review and approval. I took into consideration the dates for NRC review periods for Maybell and Naturita completion report and long-term surveillance plan documents as discussed with Ms. Charlotte Abrams of your staff in a meeting on February 10, 1998.

Both the Maybell and the Naturita licensing logic has been shortened from the previously established 16-month schedule to a new proposed 7-month schedule. The changes to the Maybell and Naturita licensing schedules are primarily from overlapping and reducing contractor and DOE activities. The duration for the NRC review of documents has not changed, however, the comment resolution review cycle was shortened by several weeks. I feel that with increased communication between our staffs that comments can be resolved quicker than previously scheduled.

Maybell site construction is not scheduled to be completed until September 30, 1998, therefore, the Completion Report can not be submitted to NRC for review until early January 1999. Licensing should then be completed by April 1999.

The Naturita Completion Report will be submitted to you for review during September 1998. Under the 7-month licensing schedule, the site documentation should be completed and the site licensed by January 1999.

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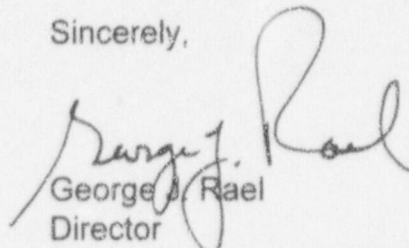
All remaining documents for Ambrosia Lake, Green River, and Slick Rock will be submitted no later than April 1998 for your review and licensing of these sites.

There are now 31 vicinity property sites identified by DOE for applying supplemental standards. Sixteen of these supplemental standards applications have been submitted to NRC for review. The remaining 15 applications will be delivered to NRC no later than July 1, 1998. However, additional applications could be encountered during the course of scheduled remedial action.

I hope this new schedule will assist NRC in developing a plan for staff availability for Title I document reviews. If you feel that further conversations would be beneficial, I would suggest a meeting with you and your staff to review these schedules. I will continue to provide you the status of construction at the Maybell and Naturita sites on a monthly basis, and attempt to identify any unforeseen changes which would impact licensing of either site. Please let me know if you have any concerns with the assumptions as presented.

Again, thank you for your continued commitment to the successful completion of the UMTRA Surface Project. If you have any questions on the attached site schedule, please feel free to contact me at (505) 845-4311.

Sincerely,



George J. Rael
Director

Environmental Restoration Division

Attachments

cc w/attachments:

C. Abrams, NRC

J. Deckler, CDPHE

D. Mathes, EM-45, HQ

F. Bosiljevic, ERD, AL

R. Cooney, RAC

L. Pinkel, TAC

Status and Schedule for Completing
Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act, Title I Sites

Ambrosia Lake, New Mexico

Status:

NRC finished their review of the Completion Report (CR) and concurred in site completion on May 1, 1997. NRC has no outstanding issues on the Long-Term Surveillance Plan (LTSP). The state of New Mexico cleared the title to the site in February 1998 and forwarded the title to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to complete the land transfer for the federal government. After the ACE concurs and the state records the deed, the land transfer information will be forwarded to NRC as a page insert to the LTSP. After NRC concurrence with the site LTSP, the site will be licensed under the general license.

Milestones:

DOE provides final LTSP (with land transfer information)	March 1998
NRC completed licensing	March 1998

Grand Junction, Colorado

Status:

On March 28, 1997, NRC completed the CR review for the Grand Junction processing site and transmitted its concurrence to DOE. No licensing action is required for the Grand Junction processing site. The NRC staff reviewed the partial CR for the Cheney disposal site and identified missing information which DOE provided by letter of February 5, 1998. Assuming no additional information is needed, NRC could complete its review of the Cheney CR in March 1998. On January 28, 1998, NRC provided its review, consisting of one comment, on the draft LTSP for the Cheney site. CDPHE provided both CR and LTSP comments in its letter of February 20, 1998. DOE will respond to these comments and will incorporate the appropriate response into the CR and LTSP. DOE will not provide a final LTSP for the Cheney site as no licensing action is scheduled for the Cheney disposal site until the cell is filled or the year 2023.

Milestones:

NRC provide review of the Cheney Completion Report (Final milestone if no additional concerns are identified)	March 1998
DOE responds to NRC and CDPHE comments and provides page changes to LTSP	March 1998
DOE responds to NRC and CDPHE comments and provides page changes to CR	April 1998
NRC concurs in interim Cheney construction completion	May 1998

Green River, Utah

Status:

DOE proposes to submit a revised site groundwater protection strategy as a modification to the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) in March 1998. The state of Utah and the NRC will concur on the RAP modification. The LTSP will be changed to reflect this modification. When LTSP page changes are received, and upon NRC concurrence with the site LTSP, the site will be licensed under the general license.

Milestones:

DOE submits revised RAP modification	March 1998
NRC and state of Utah concur on modification to RAP	April 1998
DOE provides final LTSP	April 1998
NRC completes licensing	May 1998

Maybell, Colorado

Status:

On April 21, 1997, NRC completed its review of the RAP and provided its Technical Evaluation Report for the Maybell site. DOE submitted a partial CR and LTSP in February 1998. Construction is scheduled to be completed by September 30, 1998. Following completion of construction, DOE will submit a complete CR and a final LTSP to NRC for review.

Milestones:

DOE submits partial CR	February 1998
DOE submits LTSP	February 1998
NRC provides comments on partial CR and LTSP	April 1998
DOE provides responses to LTSP comments	April 1998
DOE provides responses for partial CR	May 1998
DOE submits complete CR	January 1999
NRC provides comments on complete CR	March 1999
DOE submits responses to NRC comments on complete CR and page changes	March 1999
DOE submits final LTSP	March 1999
NRC concurs with site certification summary	April 1999
NRC completes licensing	April 1999

Naturita, Colorado

Status:

DOE will provide NRC and CDPHE comment responses and a revised RAP. Following NRC and CDPHE determination that the RAP comments have been resolved, NRC will produce its Technical Evaluation Report. Upon resolution of regulatory comments, DOE, NRC, and CDPHE will approve the RAP. DOE will submit the LTSP for review. DOE will submit Appendix J of the CR, containing the processing site grid verification data, to the NRC for review. Following the completion of construction, DOE will submit a complete CR and LTSP for NRC review.

Milestones:

DOE submits reviewed RAP and comment responses	March 1998
DOE submits Appendix J of CR	May 1998
NRC and CDPHE completes RAP review	May 1998
DOE submits LTSP for review	June 1998
NRC provides comments on Appendix J of CR	July 1998
NRC provides comments on LTSP	August 1998
DOE submits complete CR	September 1998
NRC provides comments on complete CR	November 1998
DOE submits responses to NRC comments on complete CR and page changes	December 1998
DOE submits final LTSP	December 1998
NRC concurs with site certification summary	January 1999
NRC completes licensing	January 1999

Slick Rock, Colorado

Status:

NRC provided comments on the CR and LTSP in February 1998. DOE will submit responses to comments and page changes to the CR and LTSP. Once the comments are resolved, the NRC will proceed with licensing.

Milestones:

DOE submit responses to CR and LTSP comments and page changes	March 1998
NRC complete CR review and concur with site certification summary	May 1998
NRC completes licensing	May 1998

Vicinity Property Supplemental Standards Applications

Under review by NRC:

1. Ambrosia VP-001
2. Grand Junction South Ave.
3. Grand Junction West Ave.
4. Gunnison VP-029
5. Maybell VP-002
6. Maybell VP-003
7. Maybell VP-004
8. Maybell VP-005
9. Maybell VP-006
10. Mexican Hat VP-024 (awaiting additional information from DOE)
11. Rifle VP-474
12. Rifle VP-475
13. Rifle VP-480
14. Rifle VP-493 (awaiting additional information from DOE)
15. Rifle VP-581/587
16. Rifle VP-582

To be submitted by DOE:

1. Burrell VP-800
2. Canonsburg VP-Canonsburg Streets
3. Falls City VP-Falls City Streets
4. Green River VP-Green River Streets
5. Lakeview VP-Lakeview Streets
6. Naturita VP-058
7. Naturita VP-065
8. Naturita VP-066
9. Naturita VP-067
10. Naturita VP-225
11. Rifle VP-Rifle Streets
12. Rifle VP-477
13. Rifle VP-479
14. Salt Lake City VP-Salt Lake City Streets
15. Shiprock VP-Shiprock Streets