

TRIP REPORT - 3-5 OCTOBER 1977

MORTON RANCH URANIUM PROJECT

CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING

A.A. DePhilippe and A.J. Depman

U.S. Army Engineer District, Philadelphia

19 October 1977

1. Purpose: To visit the project site in connection with review of the tailings retention basin design which will be covered in a forthcoming report by the applicant's consultant.

2. Attendees:

USNRC

J.D. Kyrle

T.L. Johnson

~~L.T. Murdock~~

P. Garcia

USCE, Phila. District (USNRC consultant)

A.A. DePhilippe

A.J. Depman

United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) applicant

A.W. Woods

C.E. Wolff

P. Palmer

Dames and Moore (applicant's consultants)

G. Condrat

L.T. Murdock

9706300073 771019
PDR ADOCK 04003602
C PDR

3. Itinerary:

- 3 October Travel to Casper, Wyoming.
- 4 October Meeting in UNC office. Visit to project site mine pit and the two tailings pond sites under consideration.
- 5 October Return to Philadelphia.

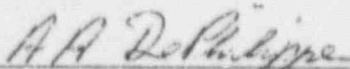
4. Narrative:

a. Office Meeting: Progress in developing the design of the retention basin was reviewed. The two tailings basin locations being considered are known as the north and south sites. The south site is presently considered more favorable for environmental and other reasons. This basin contains an ore body situated near the proposed tailings pond embankment. Drilling to establish the ore body limits was in progress.

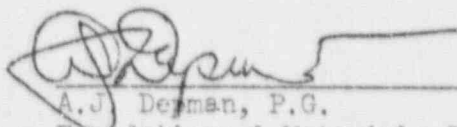
b. Site: Visits were made to the large open mine pit, where an excellent view of the geologic formations (soft sandstones and shales) was afforded and to the two basin sites located in drainage areas on the north and south sides of a low ridge on which the mill is to be constructed. Typical samples of materials from drill holes in the foundation of the south basin embankment were examined.

5. Points of Discussion: Since the consultant's report has not been submitted, a list of discussion items had not been prepared for the visit. Discussion was held on design data and proposed details of the retention basin for the south site as presented by Dames & Moore including a geologic profile of the embankment foundation, testing of materials, embankment section and the pond lining plan (2 feet of compacted clay). Seepage analysis and some details of

embankment construction control were also discussed. Design investigations appear to be progressing satisfactorily, however, some difficulty may result from the proximity of the ore body excavation to the site of the embankment.



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