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WM-64/TT0/87/12/08/0

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DEC 9 1987

URFO:TT0

Docket No. WM-64

040WM64840E-001

W. John Arthur, Acting Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

Dear Mr. Arthur:

Staff review of the "filter drain" for the Lakeview site has been completed. After considering all available information, NRC has concluded that a number of concerns still exist involving the seep and the associated resolution of these concerns.

DOE has not provided and/or established that all areas have been properly investigated for possible future seepage in or along the cell. It is evident from the site characterization that there is insufficient exploratory data to verify seepage occurrence and possible pathways for seepage.

Also, there is a possibility that the cell could fill with seepage water over time due to such events as eventual failure of the drain or seepage not intercepted by the drain. The filling of the cell with seepage water could cause numerous problems such as contamination of ground water, and instability and failure of structure.

At this time, NRC feels that resolution of the seepage problem through a "filter drain" is not sufficient to safeguard the cell integrity for a duration of time specified by the EPA criteria.

OFC :	8801070186 871209				
NAME :	PDR WASTE				
	WM-64	PDR			
DATE : 87/12/09					

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To address these concerns, we will be setting up a meeting for early January with your staff and the State of Oregon. Should you have any comments or questions, please contact Mr. Tom Olsen of my staff at FTS 776-2813.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edward F. Hawkins, Chief
Licensing Branch 1
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

cc: Jolene Garcia, DOE
Felix Miera, DOE

OFC	: URFO	110	: URFO	111	:	:	:	:	:
NAME	: Tolson/lv	:	EHawkins	:	:	:	:	:	:
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