

Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400M DOCKET CONTROL Albuquerque, New Mexico 87995 ER

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'87 AUG 31 P3:41

Paul Lohaus U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 7915 Eastern Avenue Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

As discussed at our July 1987 meeting in Albuquerque, DOE has been conducting a comparison of stabilization requirements between Title I and Title II uranium mill tailings sites and determining if cost improvements could be attained by the DOE UMTRA Project in carrying out Title I remedial actions. In addition some insights in the differing stabilization approaches between Title I and Title II were recognized as a result of our participation in the Uranium Recovery Field Office (URFO) Title II workshop held earlier this summer in Denver.

As a result of these discussions, we directed our Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC) to conduct a review of rock stabilization costs for the remaining Title I sites and compare it with a conceptual design for a soil-stabilized Title I site.

This work has led to some very interesting results. In order to present our information to the NRC, we would like to set up a briefing in early October 1987. This briefing could be done separately, with one briefing in Washington, D.C. and one in Denver, CO., or we could all meet in a common location. As part of this briefing, we would also like to discuss NRC requirements of Title II sites in order to assure meeting the EPA standards. This interest is based on the fact that DOE may consider a soil stabilized cover at certain Title I sites, and also at some point in time Title II sites will be turned over to DOE or other federal agency designated by the President for surveillance and maintenance activities.

I will arrange to have information on the stabilization costs for Title I/Title II sites transmitted to you in early September, so NRC can review before the meeting. Please give me a call once you have received the information and we can arrange a date and location for the meeting.

Sincerely,

W. John Arthur Docket No. Deputy Project Manager Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

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cc:

J. Turi, DOE-NE-22, HQ

E. Hawkins, NRC, Denver

G. Gnugnoli, NRC, Silver Springs

M. Fliegel, NRC, Silver Springs