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Docket File 40-8907

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SEP 8 1987

URFO:GRK

Docket No. 40-8907

UNC Mining and Milling

ATTN: Charles Johnson, General Manager

P.O. Drawer QQ

Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Gentlemen:

The staff has completed its review of your enhanced evaporation system. It is our conclusion that your system as shown in Figure 1-3 of your June, 1987, reclamation plan will cause unacceptable recharge to the central tailings cell. However, it is our understanding, based upon our September 1, 1987 telephone discussion, that UNC Mining and Milling would be willing to expand the enhanced evaporation system to minimize the tailings recharge. As was discussed, the expanded system would consist of a pumping input of 220 gpm. This solution would be distributed by way of three main lines on 150-foot spacing, each of which will be fitted with 18 spray nozzles. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the enhanced evaporation system will be operated from mid-April until mid-October, only on non-precipitation days. The daily operation schedule will be 12 hours per day for 5 days per week.

Considering the operation schedule and the flow rates noted above, the system meets our design objective of accelerated evaporation loss, while minimizing tailings recharge. Due to this, UNC Mining and Milling is authorized to install and operate the enhanced evaporation system as described above.

Sincerely,

Harry J. Pettengill, Chief
Licensing Branch 2
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

OFC	: URFO	: URFO	:	:	:	:	:
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