



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

MAR 6 1989

URFO:VRS
Docket No. 40-8681
License No. SUA-1358
04008681190R

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8681
FROM: Van R. Scovill, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV
SUBJECT: REPORT OF AN ELEVATED URINE BIOASSAY AT UMETCO'S WHITE
MESA MILL

Introduction

By letter dated January 10, 1989, Umetco Minerals Company provided information regarding an elevated bioassay result at the White Mesa Mill. The following is a discussion of the elevated urine bioassay result and the followup conducted by Umetco.

Discussion

On December 1, 1988, a Radiation Work Permit (RWP) was issued to perform non-routine work in the yellowcake packaging bin area. Seven individuals worked for up to an hour within the yellowcake packaging bin area. The individual concerned worked for approximately 10 minutes under the RWP. On December 5, 1988, a urine bioassay sample was collected for the subject individual. On December 7, 1988, the sample was analyzed with a result of 338 $\mu\text{g/l}$ uranium, which was immediately reported to the Radiation Protection Officer. The Radiation Protection Officer obtained follow-up bioassay samples on December 8 and 9, 1988. Additionally, a baseline sample had been collected on December 1, 1988, prior to work being conducted under the RWP.

Sample analysis results for the worker are as follows:

1 December - 5 $\mu\text{g/l}$
7 December - 338 $\mu\text{g/l}$
8 December - 7 $\mu\text{g/l}$
9 December - 7 $\mu\text{g/l}$

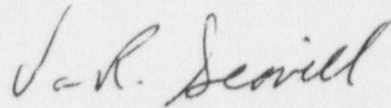
Bioassay results for the other six individuals working under the RWP the same period were all less than 15 $\mu\text{g/l}$ uranium.

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The licensee's review of the incident concludes that the urine bioassay sample which indicated an elevated concentration of uranium was contaminated either during sample collection or subsequent handling. The licensee's corrective actions included retraining the individual concerning proper sample collection procedures to minimize sample contamination as well as stressing the importance of the urine bioassay program.

Conclusion

Upon completion of a review of the data provided by the licensee, the staff concurs with the licensee's findings, conclusions, and corrective action. No further action is necessary.



Van R. Scovill, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Approved By:



R. Dale Smith, Director
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Case Closed: 04008681190R

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