

H. L. Price, Director, Division of Licensing
and Regulation, Washington

March 16, 1939

Donald T. Walker, Director, Division of
Licensee Inspection, Idaho Operations Office

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
DONALD T. WALKER

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT, KENDRICK NUCLEAR FUELS CORPORATION,
GRANITE, NEW MEXICO, SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE NO. A-217

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Transmitted herewith is one copy of the subject report.

The licensee has been cited for the following items of noncompliance
in the enclosed report:

10 CFR 20.201 Surveys

- (b) Surveys to determine the existence of, and evaluate, hazards incident to the processing of uranium ores have not been made.

10 CFR 20.203 Caution signs, labels and signals

- (a)(2) Areas having uranium in excess of specified limits have not been posted.
(c)(3) Containers having uranium in excess of specified limits have not been marked.

It will note, in the body of the report, that the license will had not reached its rated capacity for the milling of the ore at the time of the inspection. Mr. Eubank, Safety Director, stated that some members of the mill were still under modification and final construction and that the mill would not be completed for another month or two. It has been our agreement with Grand Junction personnel that inspections of the mills would not be conducted until the majority of operational difficulties had been overcome by the mill operators. However, in this case, the inspection was scheduled so that it would be made while we were in the geographical area. It is the opinion of this office, that the mill will probably forgo the construction of an extensive survey until the entire mill is completed and operations are at scheduled capacity, as that representative data can be obtained. Rated capacity should be attained during the second quarter of the calendar year, if not before. The phases of operations which should be included in their initial survey are listed in the report.

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The visit to this mill has brought to my attention one other potential hazard which has been considered, heretofore, to be rather improbable in the milling industry, that of substantial build-ups of radon concentrations. Mr. Robison stated that when radon concentrations in their mining operations were being checked the concentrations at the lowest level of the jaw crusher area were also checked. These were found to be significant though he could not recall the figures. He further stated that the build-up of the radon concentration had been eliminated by opening an access port at the top of the area, which permitted a sufficient movement of air through the crushing area to prohibit a build-up. It should be further noted that, according to Mr. Robison, no employee spends a significant amount of the time in the jaw crusher area. Other than for routine maintenance, and during occasional repair of the equipment, the area is unoccupied. I feel that this information points up the need for similar investigations at other mills which may have analogous areas.

It will be noted that the licensee has not been cited under 10 CFR 20.207, for storage of licensed material, even though the ore pockets are not under surveillance the entire time. Since the ore is stored in the ore pockets which are located about 30 feet below the ground level, the potential removal of the ore from the area appears quite remote. Further, as has been noted in other mill reports, I can see no health hazard in storing uranium ore in an unrestricted area.

I am further in a quandary about the tailings area at this mill. As noted, the area is not fenced or posted and therefore, theoretically, can not be considered a restricted area. Since it is located approximately 20 miles from Grants and near no recreational area (as was the case at the Hematite-New Mexico mill's tailings pond, where a softball field was located adjacent to the pond), I do not feel that there is much of a hazard, if any, to the general public in this case. There was no release of liquid effluents from the company's property and none is expected for a substantial period of time.

During our tour of the mill, housekeeping appeared to be normal, considering that some construction was still in progress. The accumulation of debris, mostly wood which had been taken from the ore at the jaw crusher, was significant, as shown at the right in Photograph 3. Such is not, however, uncommon in the crushing areas of other mills. The sampling area had the expected amount of accumulated dust, though that portion of the area, as shown in Photograph 5, was relatively clean. The sample preparation room appeared to have an unusual amount of ore dust on the equipment and floor. The yellow cake room, which

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