



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 3, 2020

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Deputy Director
Mail Stop T8 F5
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Deferred Monitoring on the Monument Valley, Arizona, Processing Site; the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site; and the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site Impacted by COVID-19
(NRC Docket Nos. WM-70, WM-58 and WM-73)

To Whom It May Concern:

As we discussed during the October 19, 2020, quarterly update meeting between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM), the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Navajo Nation has resulted in travel restrictions for conducting work on tribal lands. The travel restrictions preclude LM and our support contractor, Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc., from conducting any work at sites on Navajo tribal land unless that work has been determined to be mission essential. Consequently, LM will not conduct annual and semiannual monitoring events at the Monument Valley, Arizona, Processing Site; the Shiprock, New Mexico, Disposal Site; and the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site during the remainder of 2020.

Annual monitoring events are typically conducted at the Monument Valley site during the month of December; semiannual monitoring events are conducted at the Shiprock site during the months of March and September; and semiannual monitoring events are conducted at the Tuba City site during February and August. Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions that have been in place for most of 2020, the last annual monitoring event for Monument Valley was conducted in December 2019; the last semiannual monitoring event at Shiprock was conducted in September 2019; and the last semiannual monitoring event at Tuba City was conducted in February 2020.

At the present time, LM does not anticipate that routine monitoring will resume at Navajo Nation sites any sooner than April 2021. LM will continue to update NRC as planning for monitoring events is further developed.



Please call me at (970) 248-6018 or Mark.Kautsky@lm.doe.gov if you have any questions. Please send any correspondence to:

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Sincerely,



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Mark Kautsky
UMTRCA Program Manager

cc via email:

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