

March 17, 1998

Mr. Robert Neel  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Division of Waste Management  
Mail Stop: T-8F37  
Washington, DC 20555

**SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CHARACTERIZATION SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE ASH LAGOON AND SAMPLING DESIGN FOR THE KISKI VALLEY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, LEECHBURG, PENNSYLVANIA SITE (RFTA NO. 98-08)**

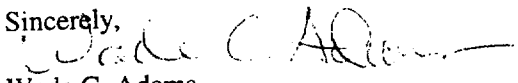
Dear Mr. Neel:

The Environmental Survey and Site Assessment Program (ESSAP) of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) conducted a characterization survey of the ash lagoon and the adjacent property at the Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority (KVVWPCA) in Leechburg, Pennsylvania on December 13 through 15, 1994. Radiological survey activities included surface scans for gamma activity; exposure rate measurements; surface and subsurface ash sampling; surface and well water sampling; and, miscellaneous sampling of perimeter soil and river sediment.

At the request of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), ESSAP was tasked with performing the following: a review of the characterization data; demonstrating if there is a fixed ratio of uranium isotopes within the volume of sludge/ash; differentiating the volumes of ash that are less than 30 pCi/g from the volumes of ash that are greater than or equal to 30 pCi/g; preparing a sampling plan that includes the number of samples necessary to identify the volumes of ash that are greater than 30 pCi/g from the volume that is less than 30 pCi/g; and, determining the resources needed to implement the sampling plan.

A cost estimate for performing the additional survey activities as recommended in the following comments has been enclosed. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (423) 576-0065 or Timothy J. Vitkus at (423) 576-5073.

Sincerely,

  
Wade C. Adams  
Health Physicist/Project Leader  
Environmental Survey and  
Site Assessment Program

WCA:kew

Enclosures

cc. R. Uleck, NRC/NMSS/TWFN/7F27  
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