

Mr. Albert R. Chernoff, Project Manager  
 Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action  
 Project Office  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 Albuquerque Operations Office  
 P.O. Box 5400  
 Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

1 AUG 19 1994

Dear Mr. Chernoff:

SUBJECT: REMEDIATION OF AREA N OF THE MEXICAN HAT, UTAH, URANIUM MILL  
 TAILINGS REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT (UMTRAP) SITE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) letter, dated June 8, 1994, informing NRC of its change in verification data and procedures in Area N of the Mexican Hat, Utah site.

According to this letter, a glitch in the project's tractor-mounted array of gamma radiation detectors (RTRAK) computer resulted in the loss or insufficient collection of data in 13 grids within Area N of the site. Due to cost considerations, the letter stated it would be economically unfeasible to re-excavate the entire affected area to gather new RTRAK verification data. Thus, DOE used alternative verification means to show compliance with 40 CFR 192 standards, as outlined in the letter's enclosures. Based on review of the supplemental verification data results, the staff concurs with DOE's assessment that this information provides reasonable assurance of compliance with 40 CFR 192 standards. However, to preclude incidents of this nature from occurring at this or other UMTRAP sites in the future, the staff recommends that DOE consider revising its procedure for RTRAK data collection to include verification of data prior to reclamation activities.

As DOE has indicated in its letter, this information will be included in the Completion Report for this site. The NRC staff will formalize its concurrence with this aspect of the remedial action as part of that review. If you have any questions concerning this subject, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Robert Carlson at (301) 415-8165.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Gillen, Section Leader  
 Uranium Recovery Projects Section  
 High-Level Waste and Uranium  
 Recovery Projects Branch  
 Division of Waste Management  
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
 and Safeguards

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