

July 16, 2012

Mr. Cliff Carpenter
Federal Project Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
99 Research Park Road
Morgantown, WV 26505

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED JUNE 13, 2011, FROM CLIFF CARPENTER
REQUESTING REDUCTION OF GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER
MONITORING REGARDING CANONSBURG URANIUM MILL TAILING
DISPOSAL SITE, CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

In your letter (ML11172A144) dated June 13, 2011, you requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review the groundwater and surface monitoring assessment report for the Canonsburg Uranium Mill Tailings disposal site, issued in March 2011 and concur that the frequency of the monitoring can be reduced from annually to every five years.

In response to your request, the NRC has reviewed the above document and also information gathered from the site inspection performed in October 2011. The results of the review are included in the enclosure, "Technical Review of Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring at Canonsburg Pennsylvania, UMTRCA Title II Site."

Based on our technical review, the NRC concurs that the frequency of monitoring can be reduced from annually to every five years. It is our understanding that DOE will amend the Canonsburg Long Term Surveillance Plan using this approval to proceed with issuing the revision.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

C. Carpenter

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 301-415-7612 (paul.michalak@nrc.gov), or Ted Carter, the NRC project manager for the Canonsburg site, at 301-415-5543 (ted.carter@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Michalak, Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: WM42

Enclosure: Technical Review

C. Carpenter

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 301-415-7612 (paul.michalak@nrc.gov), or Ted Carter, the NRC project manager for the Gas Hills North Site, at 301-415-5543 (ted.carter@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Michalak, Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
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Technical Review of Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring at Canonsburg Pennsylvania, UMTRCA Title II Site

Performed by:

Lifeng Guo, Technical Reviewer, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection,
Materials Decommissioning Branch

Technical Review:

Groundwater and surface water monitoring was performed to fulfill the requirements described in the revised *Long-Term Surveillance Plan (LTSP) for the U.S. Department of Energy Canonsburg Uranium Mill Tailings Disposal Site, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania* (LMS/CAN/S00404-0.0, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), revised September 22, 2008). The monitoring network consists of five wells (0406A, 0412, 0413, 0413B, and 0424) completed in the uppermost aquifer, and one surface water location in Chartiers Creek (0602). Field parameters are collected, water levels measured, and uranium concentrations determined annually.

Uranium concentrations monitored annually in the groundwater from all five wells from 1995 to 2010 have consistently been less than approximately 0.35 mg/L, significantly below the NRC approved Alternative Concentration Level (ACL) for uranium of 1.0 mg/L. The uranium concentrations of surface water in Chartiers Creek (at 0602) fluctuated between 0.0011 mg/L and 0.0002 mg/L, and have been remained below the target level of 0.01 mg/L since 1995.

Based on the recent site inspection conducted in October 2011, the disposal cell and all associated surface water diversion and drainage structures were in excellent condition and functioning as designed. Results of groundwater and surface water monitoring since 1995 demonstrate continued compliance with established site standards. A reduction of groundwater and surface water monitoring from annual to once every five year following the 2011 sampling will not compromise the site monitoring to detect changes. The NRC staff concur with this proposal of monitoring reduction to once every 5 years.

Enclosure