
From: Elizabeth Miller <emiller@boulderweekly.com>
To: Burnell, Scott
Cc: McIntyre, David
Sent: Fri Mar 16 16:30:42 2012
Subject: Re: Boulder Weekly request for information

Hi Scott,

We actually have three reporters working on this story, so I just checked in for more details and an update on some information he just uncovered —

It was a flotation mill processing fluorspar which created NORMs containing uranium, radium-226 and other heavy metals.

The Colorado revised statutes that the Colorado Department of Public Health references as their authority for terminating the license reverences the nuclear regulatory commission (lower cased in the statutes).

Does that help?

And yes, we can hang on until Monday.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Miller
Special Editions & Calendar Editor
Boulder Weekly
303-494-5511 ext. 107

On 3/16/12 2:09 PM, "Burnell, Scott" <Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov> wrote:
Hi Elizabeth;

I've CC'd my co-worker, David, who handles these things under normal circumstances. It's unclear from your note whether the property processed material other than uranium, which leaves open the question of whether the tailings are covered by NRC regulations and/or the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act. The technical staff tells me they might be able to uncover more details Monday if you can hang on until then. Thanks.

Scott Burnell
Public Affairs Officer
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

From: Elizabeth Miller [<mailto:emiller@boulderweekly.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2012 1:50 PM
To: Burnell, Scott
Subject: Boulder Weekly request for information

Scott,

Here's the situation for the site, which has been referred to as the Valmont Butte Corp., Hendricks Mill and Allied Chemical sites over the course of it's ownership, I'm researching:

Historic mill operations at the site resulted in tailings ponds that have produced radiological results after testing for radium-226, natural uranium and polonium-210 that required the site to apply for a radioactive material license in 1971 (Radioactive Materials License Colo 171-01). That license was modified that same year for the ponds to intake additional tailings impacted by radium-226. Modified again in 1977 based on the new owner's planned activity at the mill, which included ongoing storage of radioactive material but not production of additional material (Radioactive Materials License Colo 329-01). The license was maintained through 1980, was not renewed but in 1984 the owner was informed that the license remained "in force" until terminated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The license was terminated in 1995.

At the moment, my questions are:

Given the NRC's requirements for public hearings, should the state have conducted public hearings for any, or all, of these license modifications, including the initial issuing of the licenses and the eventual termination?

I've heard that as soon as a license is terminated, the federal government is to take the site over. Is that true? What would that consist of?

What year did Colorado become an Agreement State with the NRC?

Let me know if you need additional information from me to answer these questions.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Miller
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Boulder Weekly
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