



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 21, 2015

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Attn: Mr. Dominick Orlando
Mail Stop T8F5
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Test to Determine the Efficacy of an Enhanced Evaporation System at the Tuba City,
Arizona Disposal Site

Dear Mr. Orlando:

We are planning to demonstrate the efficacy of an enhanced evaporation system at the Tuba City, Arizona disposal site. The fan based system is designed to increase evaporation and we will be using it at the existing evaporation pond. We anticipate this system will greatly increase the evaporation rate which is currently about 20 gallons per minute. As you have already agreed, we are performing direct evaporation of the most highly contaminated groundwater by pumping from only a few wells directly downgradient of the disposal cell, as an interim treatment. We are in the process of gathering stakeholder input to support a decision on a revised groundwater compliance action plan.

What we will be determining during this test will be the required pumping rates and power consumption, sustained evaporation rates while operating the fans, and the performance during various wind speeds and directions. Our effort will be to determine if the system can be safely and efficiently operated without spraying contaminated solution away from the pond. For example, there will most likely be some wind speed or direction for which the system will need to be shut off. This equipment will be coming from the Moab, Utah UMTRA project site.

Please call me at (970) 248-6073 if you would like any more information or have any concerns with this plan. Please address any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. Bush".

Richard P. Bush
UMTRCA Program Manager



cc:

P. Antonio, NNEPA

S. Austin, NNEPA

E. Rich, NNEPA

H. Karr, NNDOJ

S. Smith, SN3 (e)

File: TUB 0400.02 (rc grand junction)

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