



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20535



WM-52  
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MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT W. RAMSEY, JR.  
REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM MANAGER

FROM: ROBERT J. STERN, DIRECTOR *Bob Stern*  
NEPA AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)  
DETERMINATION FOR THE SALT LAKE CITY,  
FIRE STATION NO. 1 VICINITY PROPERTY

We have reviewed your February 27, 1981, memorandum requesting a determination under the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321) for the proposed remedial action at the Salt Lake City, Fire Station No. 1, vicinity property.

Based on the information provided in your memorandum and additional background materials contained in the radiological and engineering assessment prepared for the fire station property, we have determined, after consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, that the proposed action clearly is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is required.

Discussion

The proposed action is to remove approximately 6,330 cubic yards of contaminated materials from under and around the fire station and storage building and replace it with clean fill. The contaminated materials removed from the fire station property would be transported by truck and returned for temporary storage to the Vitro site. (The Vitro site is the main uranium mill tailings pile in the Salt Lake City area. The contaminated materials at the fire station were removed from the Vitro site during the period from 1953-1957 and used for fill.)

The proposed action would precede completion of the environmental impact statement being prepared for the Vitro site and remaining associated vicinity properties. We have previously advised (Memorandum dated September 23, 1980) against fragmentation of related actions in the remedial action program. In this case, the proposed interim action is based on the need

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to return the fire station to its intended use as soon as possible. As a result of elevated gamma radiation levels (average of 0.034 milliroentgens/hour) and radon daughter levels (up to 0.378 working levels), the county of Salt Lake has had to discontinue the full time use of the fire station, and currently uses the station only for vehicle maintenance. Consequently, the fire protection in this portion of the county and city has been significantly reduced, and response times to alarms have increased. We agree that the benefits of prompt action justify proceeding in advance of the completion of the environmental impact statement.

The Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (Section 1506.1) specify that until an agency issues a record of decision (following preparation of an environmental impact statement), "no action concerning the proposal shall be taken which would: (1) have an adverse environmental impact; or (2) limit the choice of reasonable alternatives." The proposed action would produce negligible effects on the human environment; it would not limit or prejudice subsequent actions or alternatives, which will be fully assessed in the environmental impact statement for the Vitro site and associated vicinity properties.

A copy of this memorandum should be retained in your project file as a record of the NEPA review performed for this action. Should you require additional information or further assistance on this action, please contact Mr. Robert Strickler (252-4510) of my staff.

Office of the General Counsel

Concur *SA [Signature]*

Noneoncur \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3.13.81

Date \_\_\_\_\_

cc: David Ball, ALO