



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

DEC 09 1992

URFO:DLJ
Docket No. 40-3453

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-3453
FROM: Dawn L. Jacoby, Project Manager
SUBJECT: ANNUAL TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF EMBANKMENT PERFORMANCE FOR
THE ATLAS MOAB MILL - JULY 1991 THROUGH JUNE 1992

By letter dated September 10, 1992, Atlas Corporation (Atlas) submitted a report documenting the annual technical evaluation of embankment performance at the Moab Mill, Utah, for the period of July 1991 through June 1992. License Condition No. 30 of Source Material License SUA-917 requires documentation of the evaluation on an annual basis. The licensee's consultant, Canonic Environmental Services Corporation, performed the technical evaluation and annual employee training program on June 24, 1992. The review of the technical evaluation indicated:

1. The volume of impounded water continues to decrease. The available freeboard in June 1990 was 22 feet; it was 26 feet in June 1991; and 28 feet in June 1992. License Condition No. 40(B) requires that the licensee maintain a minimum of 5 feet of freeboard and 150 feet of beach.
2. The piezometer data for the 12-month period indicates that the water levels within the embankments are steadily decreasing. Minor fluctuations observed were attributed to seasonal variations.
3. Water is no longer seeping into the northeast and southwest sumps. The licensee's consultant recommended decommissioning methods which should be followed when the sumps are decommissioned.
4. The physical inspection of the embankment yielded no signs of instability. No sloughing, cracking, or signs of movements were observed. No seepage was observed. The larger gullies reported in the previous technical evaluation had been backfilled. Some minor erosion gullies were noted. Although the licensee's consultant indicated that the activity did not pose a threat to the embankment's integrity, it was recommended that Atlas monitor the gullies and repair them if they enlarge significantly. The sinkhole reported in the previous technical

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DEC 09 1992

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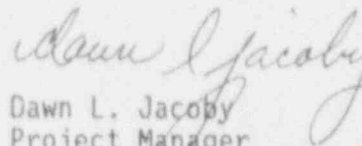
evaluation had been backfilled to prevent it from becoming an area of concentrated flow into the tailings. Several additional, smaller sinkholes were observed this year. Atlas's consultant recommended that these sinkholes be monitored regularly for size and location to determine if the holes are becoming more significant. It was recommended that larger sinkholes be graded and backfilled to ensure that concentrated flows are not allowed to enter the tailings, creating a potential piping problem.

Conclusion

The licensee's consultant concluded that the site was stable and continues to become more stable as the phreatic surface within the tailings declines with time through pumping the extraction wells located in the tailings. It was also concluded that the impoundment inspection program and employee training program meet the requirements in Source Material License SUA-917. The staff concurs with these conclusions.

It should be noted that License Condition No. 30(E) requires the licensee to submit a copy of each annual technical evaluation report within 1 month from its completion. Canonic Environmental Services Corporation submitted its technical evaluation to Atlas on July 8, 1992; Atlas submitted the report on September 10, 1992. Therefore, Atlas failed to submit the document within the amount of time stipulated in the license condition. This also occurred in 1990. During a telephone discussion with the licensee in January 1991, it was indicated that the office procedure that led to the tardiness had been corrected. It is therefore recommended that the requirement be brought to the licensee's attention again.

In addition, it is recommended that Atlas follow the recommendations made by their consultant regarding the monitoring and repair of gullies and sinkholes.


Dawn L. Jacoby
Project Manager

Case Closed: 04003453320R

DEC 09 1992

bcc:
Docket File 40-3453
PDR/DCS
URFO r/f
LJCallan, RIV
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DLJacoby
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DLJacoby/ly	DCWard <i>dcw</i>	EFHawkins	REHall	
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