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40-8714/SLW/85/05/31/0

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URFO:SLW
 Docket No. 40-8714
 04008714100E

Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company
 ATTN: Truman E. Louderbach
 818 Taughenbaugh Boulevard
 Rifle, Colorado 81650-2370

Mr. Louderbach:

During our meeting of May 22, 1985, we agreed to send you a letter outlining our concerns regarding the restoration and stabilization of the Collins Draw site, what information we need and establishing the basis for judging whether the concerns have been addressed and eliminated. This letter is to serve as our commitment to that agreement.

We are concerned over the possible existence of a "halo" of lixiviant that has been pushed outward from the well fields as a result of the method of mining and the injection of water at the end of your restoration effort. The basis for the NRC concerns are detailed in the attached report. You are requested to determine the extent and level of contaminants that may be outside the existing well fields. The current well field concentrations (assuming that the sampling discussed later shows stability) will be used as the basis for comparing the "halo" concentrations. If the levels of contaminants outside the well fields are equal to or less than those in the well fields, no further action would be warranted. If concentrations outside the well fields exceed those within, actions should be taken to reduce them to the well field levels. This will be the case for all parameters except selenium. The NRC will investigate further the use of the selenium concentrations in the well field as an acceptable basis.

NRC and CCIC agreed to jointly sample representative wells in the well field to establish current levels of contaminants. These concentrations will be compared to previous data for the purpose of judging stability following restoration. Subsequent to the meeting, a date for the sampling was tentatively set for June 5, 1985, and confirmation will be

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established by the respective staffs. If the results of the sampling indicate further treatment is necessary to reduce contaminants concentrations and ground-water sweep is determined to be the appropriate method, the following will be judged acceptable. After pumping at least two pore volumes, if the concentrations have dropped to a stable level and are equal to or below well field concentrations, then no further pumping would be required. Pore volume, as discussed above, should be mutually established prior to initiating ground-water sweep.

It is our understanding from the meeting that CCIC, upon receiving this letter, will propose a plan to deal with our concerns. We will make our staff and reports available to CCIC prior to the submittal of the plan. The NRC once again reiterates that every effort will be made to conclude the restoration and stability evaluation of the Collins Draw site in a timely manner. The NRC will further commit to a fifteen day turnaround on our review of the CCIC plan as discussed above, if the plan is received within 30 days.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sandra L. Wastler of my staff.

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R. Dale Smith, Director
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

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