

October 17, 1996

Carol Campbell, Director
Ecosystem Protection and Remediation
Mail Code EPR-EP
Region VIII
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REVISE RATING FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Ms. Campbell:

By letter dated May 8, 1996, the Region VIII Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commented on and rated the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the reclamation of Atlas Corporation's Moab mill site. EPA rated the DEIS as EO-2, with the EO indicating environmental objections. EPA stated that if it could be demonstrated that the proposed action would avoid significant impacts to the Scott Matheson Wetland Preserve, EPA could amend its rating to EC (environmental concerns). EPA's concern was that contaminated groundwater could migrate from the site, under the Colorado River, and contaminate the wetlands preserve.

On September 24, 1996, representatives of Atlas Corporation (Atlas) met with EPA staff and presented data and analysis to show that the wetlands preserve is not significantly affected by the Moab tailings. By letter dated October 1, 1996, Atlas transmitted the summary, and copies of related presentation material, of the September 24 meeting to me, with a copy to EPA.

NRC requests that, based on the September 24 meeting and the information in the October 1 Atlas package, EPA reconsider and amend its rating of the DEIS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-7238 or the NRC project manager for the Atlas review, Myron Fliegel, at (301) 415-6629.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By:]
Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-3453
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