

UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

JAN 24 1983

*Docket File copy
Attach to incoming*



On January 10, 1983, I received a copy of Teton's responses to questions raised in the August 11, 1982 letter from the Wyoming DEQ staff (Ms. Cathy McCarty, District I Environmental Specialist) to Teton Exploration Drilling concerning the final M ore zone wellfield restoration report of August 9, 1982 (copy attached). This material was sent by Ms. McCarty as a consequence of a December 8, 1982 telephone conversation between Ms. McCarty and myself.

Ms. McCarty has only recently been assigned with evaluating environmental aspects of the Teton Project for the DEQ. Her questions to Teton were primarily to aid her in becoming more familiar with the project and to help her better interpret the data presented in the final restoration report. Her questions do not necessarily indicate inadequacies with the report. I requested a copy of the questions and comments to insure that I was not overlooking anything significant in conducting my M ore zone restoration evaluation.

On January 10, 1983, I again contacted Ms. McCarty by telephone to discuss Teton's responses. The discussion centered on Teton's adjustments to M ore zone baseline data after M zone testing had begun. Although I appreciated her concern and agreed that baseline data should not be altered once mining begins, I explained that because pre-mining efforts at baselining the M ore zone were not up to current standards, Teton felt that the baseline data should be verified and supplemented. I also explained that it appeared to me that the additional "baseline" data collected by Teton is unaffected by mining because the new concentrations reported are reasonably consistent with the previously established pre-mining baseline levels. Ms. McCarty was concerned that other mining facilities would begin to alter baseline data after commencing mining for the purpose of raising restoration targets.

Ms. McCarty and I agreed to continue to inform each other of the progress of our restoration reviews and that I would consider her comments when preparing my final M ore zone restoration evaluation.

Frederick W. Ross

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