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## Department of Energy

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WM Record File

WM Project 39

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

PDR ✓

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Distribution:

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(Return to WM, 623-SS) Gillen  
Haisfield 23

Mr. Leo Higginbotham  
Chief, Low Level Waste  
Licensing Branch  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Higginbotham:

To expedite resolution of issues and concurrence for Remedial Action Plans/Site Conceptual Designs, I believe design review meetings between our staffs to discuss these documents would be extremely valuable. The design review meetings should be conducted after NRC has reviewed the documents and prior to submittal of formal comments to DOE.

DOE participants for these meetings would be the DOE site project engineer and the contractor technical specialists involved in the development of these documents. NRC attendees should include the technical staff actually performing the technical review and other NRC personnel you deem appropriate.

The meetings would have an agenda based upon discipline (geotechnology, groundwater hydrology, etc). During the meeting each NRC comment would be discussed. After discussion one of the following would be recorded for resolution of each comment:

1. DOE compliance not required.\* Comments would not be formally submitted to DOE.
2. DOE will comply. Comment would be formally submitted to DOE.

These design review meetings should be very productive. They would (1) allow DOE and it's contractor to better understand NRC concerns, (2) provide NRC with a better understanding of the approach utilized during design

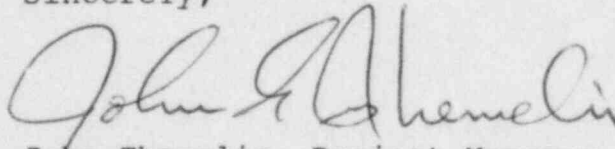
\*This entry is made when during discussions DOE/TAC provide adequate justification to address NRC concerns.

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development, and (3) allow the TAC staff an opportunity to discuss design issues directly with the appropriate NRC reviewer. Thus, if compliance is required, the response or revision will be specifically developed to address the NRC reviewer's concern. Subsequent to the meeting, DOE/TAC could immediately begin responding to NRC comments which should expedite the resolution of issues.

Hopefully, these design review meetings would improve the DOE/TAC staff interface with NRC staff, and eventually reduce the number of NRC comments and required DOE/TAC responses. Please contact me prior to May 25, 1985, regarding the acceptability of these meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Themelis".

John Themelis, Project Manager  
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

cc:

Krish Krishnan, JEG  
Roger Williams, JEG  
Russ Hopkins, M-K