



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

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Mr. Joseph J. Holonich
Acting Deputy Director
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

40-3453

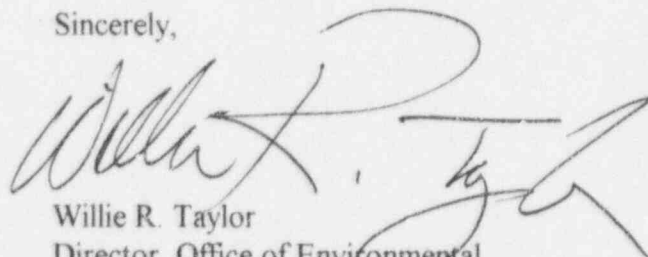
Dear Mr. Holonich:

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 1996, cancelling the proposed meeting in Moab, Utah scheduled for September 17 and 18. It is unfortunate that the meeting was cancelled since bureau personnel had expected to go over all technical concerns that were raised in our comments on the draft environmental impact statement for the reclamation of uranium mill tailings at the Atlas Moab site. We believe that specific agreement on this issue had been reached between our agencies at our meeting here on July 25, 1996.

It was hoped that the concerns that were faxed to you on August 30, 1996, would, at the very least, have been discussed in addition to the aforementioned technical issues at the proposed meeting. Now, we look forward to finding detailed responses to our technical comments in the final statement since we were not able to resolve any of the technical issues with you prior to publication of the document.

We realize policy issues relating to NRC activities should be addressed by NRC senior management as you indicate, nevertheless we also believe your management should be informed of the possibility of impacts to resources under the direct jurisdiction of this Department should unanticipated events occur in that region that would affect the integrity of the closure of the tailings pile.

Sincerely,


Willie R. Taylor
Director, Office of Environmental
Policy and Compliance

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