



ATLAS CORPORATION



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October 1, 1996

Mr. Daniel Gillen, Acting Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Transmittal
Response to Open Issue on Subsidence (Open Issue No. 3)
Atlas Corporation Reclamation Plan
Uranium Mill and Tailings Disposal Area
Moab, Utah
License SUA-917, Docket No. 40-3453

Dear Mr. Gillen:

Enclosed is Atlas Corporation's (Atlas') response to information provided by Grand County Councilman Peter Haney relating to Open Issue No. 3 of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Draft Technical Evaluation Report. This response has been prepared by Woodward-Clyde Federal Services and Smith Environmental Technologies Corporation at the request of Atlas and should be sufficient to close Open Issue No. 3.

It is our expectation that with this response all critical site suitability issues identified as open issues have been satisfactorily addressed. All other open issues related to specifications, sampling and testing programs, and the incorporation of Atlas' responses to open issues into the reclamation design will be provided in the Final Reclamation Plan. The Final Reclamation Plan will be submitted to the NRC in two to three weeks.

We are currently preparing the Final Reclamation Plan. To allow the final design activities and reproduction of the final document to move ahead, Atlas requests that NRC provide to Atlas acknowledgement that all of the critical design and site suitability issues have been closed. This will allow the final design activities and

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reproduction of the Final Reclamation Plan to move ahead without concern that additional changes will have to be incorporated into the plan and impact the cost of the plan.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have any questions concerning this submittal or our request for the acknowledgement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard E. Blubaugh". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard E. Blubaugh
Vice President of Environmental
and Governmental Affairs

REB/sjp

Enclosure