



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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September 25, 1996

Mr. Joseph Virgona, Project Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Grand Junction Project Office
2597 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

SUBJECT: FORMAT FOR ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORTS FOR UMTRCA TITLE I SITES

Dear Mr. Virgona:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed format for annual inspection reports for Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title I sites. The 1996 annual inspection report for the UMTRCA Title I Lowman, Idaho, project disposal site was prepared by DOE in the proposed format and provided to the NRC staff for its review. It is the NRC staff's understanding that, if it is found to be acceptable, DOE will submit future annual site inspection reports in the proposed format for sites placed under the NRC general license at 10 CFR 40.27.

Based on its review, the NRC staff finds, in general, the format to be acceptable. The staff does, however, have a couple of recommendations. First, Criterion 12 of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 40 requires that inspection results for all sites be reported within 90 days of the last site inspection in that calendar year. However, for sites at which unusual damage or disruption is discovered during the inspection, a preliminary site inspection report is required within 60 days. The NRC staff recommends that site inspection reports identify upfront which type of report that it is.

Secondly, the NRC staff recommends that the first page of each inspection report contain a summary of the inspection observations and findings and reference the "Conclusions and Recommendations" section of the report (Section 3.0 in the Lowman inspection report) for details.

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J. Virgona

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If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Mr. James Park of my staff. He can be reached at (301) 415-6699.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Gillen For J. Holonich
Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards

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