



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 4, 1996

Mr. Richard Sena, Acting Director
Environmental Restoration Division
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project
U.S. Department of Energy
2155 Louisiana NE, Suite 4000
Albuquerque, NM 87110

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PROJECT INTERFACE DOCUMENT NO. 11-S-03 FOR THE SLICK ROCK
DISPOSAL SITE

Dear Mr. Sena:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of U.S. Department of Energy Class I Project Interface Document (PID) No. 11-S-03, submitted to NRC on December 4, 1995, for the Slick Rock, Burro Canyon disposal cell. This PID proposes to eliminate the Disappointment Valley borrow source and substitute material excavated from the Burro Canyon Disposal Site as the radon barrier material.

Evaluation of the radon attenuation design parameters of a barrier using material excavated from the Burro Canyon disposal site was previously incorporated in the staff's review of the final Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and documented in its September 1996 Technical Evaluation Report (TER) for the Slick Rock processing and disposal sites. Based on the staff's review of test data for the proposed radon barrier material provided in PID 11-S-03, the NRC staff concurs in the proposed change. Because the TER for the Slick Rock disposal site already concludes that the radon attenuation design utilizing the Burro Canyon material is adequate, no technical evaluation documenting this review is enclosed.

In addition, DOE's letter of December 1995, transmitting PID 11-S-03, stated that "the frost protection has been deleted" for the Burro Canyon disposal Site. That letter was accompanied by site plans and cross-sections that depict a frost protection layer. In a telephone call of August 28, 1996, Mr. Jay Pape, of your staff verified that the statement in DOE's letter was in error and that the attached plans correctly show a frost protection layer for the Slick Rock site. This letter documents that the site design continues to include a frost protection layer as discussed in the RAP and the TER.

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PDR WASTE
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Mr. R. Sena

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Charlotte Abrams, at (301) 415-5808.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:]

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: J. Pape, DOE Alb
S. Hamp, DOE Alb
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