



Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

WM Record File

WM Project 41

Docket No.

PDR ☒

LFDR

SEP 16 1985

Distribution:

LBN DM Gillen
DEM

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

Mr. Leo Higgenbotham, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Higgenbotham:

Reference is made to your August 9, 1985 letter which enclosed the trip report by Dan Gillen. We have forwarded your transmittal to the State of Utah.

In the "Discussion" section of the trip report, two comments on the RAIP were listed, and these comments and our responses are as follows:

1. The specified frequency of density testing was suggested to be changed from one test per 2,000 cubic yards of material placed, to one test per 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated material and one test per 500 cubic yards of radon barrier material.

DOE response:

This change has been incorporated into the RAIP.

2. Specific Gravity and Absorption tests on the rock cover material were requested to be changed from "only when the project engineer deems necessary" to "a minimum of three tests for each gradation of riprap placed."

DOE response:

The RAIP has been changed to "Specific Gravity and Absorption tests will be run in accordance with AASHTO designation T-84 and T-85 (UDOHMOI-8-926 and UDOHMOI-8-927 respectively). These tests will be performed in the district lab by the materials supervisor and his crew once for every 120,000 square feet of material placed or whenever they are deemed necessary by the project engineer. Samples will be taken randomly from material that is already in place."

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We feel that this wording more than adequately satisfies your concern since more tests than requested will probably be performed.

In the "Conclusions" section of the report, four points were made and are listed below along with our respective responses:

1. The RAIP should be finalized as soon as possible.

DOE response:

In a September 11, 1985 telephone conversation, Dan Gillen informed Mark Matthews that NRC is preparing a letter which will provide comments on the RAIP. When we receive this letter we will review the comments and transmit an approved RAIP shortly thereafter.

2. The State is proceeding with a moisture requirement modification for placement of tailings prior to NRC approval.

DOE response:

We transmitted the request for approval for this change on July 10, 1985. We agree that early notification of changes is important and we have forwarded your request to Utah. We also feel that expeditious approval/disapproval by NRC is important.

3. Access control is of concern to NRC.

DOE response:

Your concern has been passed on to the State. In a follow-up visit to Clive on August 27, 1985 by three DOE/TAC people, it was noted that access control had been greatly improved at the site.

4. NRC is generally pleased with State management.

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DOE response:

This assessment will be provided to the State.

Sincerely,

K. A. Carlson Jr

John G. Themelis, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

cc: Mark Day, Utah