



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 27, 1996

Uranium Recovery Licensees, State and
Federal Officials on the Attached List

SUBJECT: STAFF GUIDANCE ON THE LICENSE TERMINATION PROCESS FOR CONVENTIONAL
URANIUM MILL LICENSEES

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, provides the statutory requirements for the transfer of the title and custody to byproduct material and any land used for the disposal of such byproduct material from a uranium mill licensee to either Federal or State control, prior to termination of the licensee's specific license. These requirements are codified in 10 CFR Part 40, at paragraph § 40.28, "General license for custody and long-term care of uranium or thorium byproduct materials disposal sites." 10 CFR 40.28, along with pertinent requirements laid out in Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 40, provide for the completion of certain licensing actions prior to the transfer of the land and byproduct material to the United States or the appropriate State for long-term care.

The purpose of the enclosed document is to provide the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff with specific direction to be applied in the course of the license termination process for Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (UMTRCA) Title II sites. The license termination process, including the roles of the respective involved organizations, is discussed in general, and then various relevant issues are addressed in greater detail.

This is the initial version of this guidance document, and as specific uranium mill licenses are terminated and title to the land and byproduct material is transferred to the appropriate governmental agency, future revisions are likely to be necessary. Such revisions will address not only issues yet to be identified, but also will provide any additional necessary clarification of issues discussed herein. The NRC staff welcomes any comments you may have on the document, and will consider them in its future revisions.

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

Sincerely,

[original signed by:]

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

Enclosure: As stated

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