

WM-39/GNG/85/10/03

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert E. Browning, Director
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

FROM: Leo B. Higginbotham, Chief
Low-Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF UMTRAP:
JUNE 1, 1985 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1985

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GENERAL ITEMS

The Memorandum of Understanding between DOE and NRC regarding the UMTRA Program was signed by NRC on July 8, 1985. It is presently in effect and serves to increase efficiency and reduce duplication of effort in the day-to-day workings between NRC and DOE.

NRC staff have completed Standard Review Plans for evaluating Remedial Action Plan documents and the related DOE analyses. Formal issuance is slated for early October. Topics of review include erosion protection, geotechnical stability, ground-water resources, and radon attenuation.

A DOE/States/Tribes Status Meeting was not held during this reporting period; however, a meeting has been tentatively scheduled for October 16-17, 1985.

A meeting was held on September 27, 1985 in the Silver Spring offices of NRC to discuss the impact on remedial action costs resulting from various interpretations of the "reasonable assurance" criterion in the EPA standards.

NRC and DOE staffs participated in a "dry run" review for the certification of completion of remedial actions on September 17-18, 1985 in Canonsburg, PA. The Canonsburg site was used as an example for determining the scope and detail of the certification package to be used in establishing the successful completion of remedial actions.

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The NRC has shifted more responsibilities regarding the Title I program (UMTRAP) to the Uranium Recovery Field Office in Denver, Colorado. This will help to accommodate the large number of UMTRAP reviews expected of NRC in FY 86.

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals set aside the ground-water portion of the EPA standards on September 3, 1985. DOE and EPA are in the process of determining the course of action to be taken in future remedial actions in the area of ground water.

NRC prepared and submitted its contribution to the Annual Report to Congress on UMTRAP on August 15, 1985.

STATUS OF SPECIFIC UMTRAP PROCESSING SITES

Canonsburg, PA: Construction of the encapsulation cell has been essentially completed. Some contaminated material still needs to be disposed of on-site. A request for NRC concurrence on the completion of remedial action is expected in November, 1985.

Riverton, WY: Further field testing has been performed; however, no further progress has been made due to a request by the State for DOE to consider co-disposal of the Riverton tailings at the American Nuclear Corporation's uranium mill in the Gas Hills of Wyoming. At present there is no further NRC effort pending a decision by DOE.

Lakeview, OR: The Lakeview final RAP was submitted for NRC review and concurrence on September 26, 1985. Other supporting documents should be available in early October. Depending on NRC and State conclusions regarding the site conceptual design, construction is expected to begin in March, 1986. The Oregon Facility Siting Council recommended acceptance of the proposed disposal site (Collins Ranch) to the governor on September 6, 1985.

Salt Lake City, UT: Construction has been proceeding in this period. Tailings are being transported by rail to the Clive Disposal Site. DOE expects construction to be completed in the summer of 1987. At present there are two open issues under review, and these consist of durability criteria for the rock cover and moisture specifications for the contaminated material.

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Shiprock, NM: Major construction begun in June, 1985 with 30 percent of the site work being completed during FY 85. NRC staff is presently evaluating recently submitted information pertinent to resolving conditions for full NRC concurrence in the remedial action.

Durango, CO: NRC staff completed review of the draft RAP, final EIS and other support documents on August 30, 1985. The DOE revised its original plan to stabilize the tailings at Long Hollow and now proposes to move them to the Bodo Canyon disposal site. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 1986.

Rifle, CO: DOE is conducting an investigative drilling program to characterize three candidate disposal sites. Co-disposal with the Grand Junction tailings is no longer being proposed. Separate candidate disposal sites are being considered within a six-mile radius of the New Rifle tailings piles.

Grand Junction, CO: Most of the effort during this period at this site has been directed to vicinity property cleanup. However, DOE is reconsidering the choice of Cheney Reservoir as the preferred alternative.

Gunnison, CO: The DOE withdrew the stabilization-on-site option for Gunnison. Further candidate disposal site investigations are being considered.

Others: Site investigation activities (monitoring, well placement, and other characterization activities) began at the Ambrosia Lake, NM; Tuba City, AZ; Monument Valley, AZ and Mexican Hat, UT sites. The remaining sites are in various stages of administrative and negotiation processes to initiate on-site characterization.

Original signed by
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