



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SECRETARIAT RECORD COPY

JAN 19 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Roberts

FROM: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: URANIUM MILL TAILINGS REGULATION

This is in response to your memorandum of January 4, 1983 concerning the working group that has been appointed to take a fresh look at the mill tailings regulations. The working group will be under the general direction of Richard E. Cunningham, Director, Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety (FC). Ralph Wilde, FC, is the group leader. Mr. Wilde has over 15 years of radiation protection experience working in the uranium mining and milling industry prior to his government employment. However, he was not involved in the preparation of the current NRC tailings regulations. Dr. William Mills, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, serves as the radiological assessment advisor. Mr. Homer Lowenberg, FC, is the engineering advisor. Mr. Robert Fonner, Office of the Executive Legal Director (ELD), is the legal advisor. Other members include Dr. Donald Cool, FC, Ms. Kathleen Hamill, Division of Waste Management and Mr. John Linehan, Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV.

The fixed schedule of meetings has not been established for the working group, however, the group leader can notify your staff of upcoming meetings of the group, if you so desire.

With regard to statements that have been made by Members of Congress in recent debates, the following references have been located in the Congressional Record:

Senator Schmidt - C.R. October 1, 1982, pages S13292-13293
C.R. December 16, 1982, pages S15315-15616

Congressman Lujan - C.R. December 2, 1982, page H8816
C.R. December 10, 1982, pages E5059-5061

Copies of these pertinent sections of the Congressional Record are being provided to the members of the working group for their information.

The staff has not been able to locate any references for statements that may have been made by Congressman Lowery on the subject of uranium mill tailings legislation. This is being pursued with the assistance of the Legislative Reference Section, ELD.

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Copies of the hearing record for Authorization of Appropriations for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for Fiscal Years 1982 and 1983 before the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment (Udall Committee), February 24, 1981 and for Management of Commingled Uranium Mill Tailings before the Procurement and Military Nuclear Systems Subcommittee (Stratton Committee), August 17 and 18, 1982, have been obtained and will be reviewed by members of the working group.

As you have requested, the working group will include in its deliberations an assessment of the implementation of branch technical positions that are used to regulate uranium mill tailings.

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for
Operations

cc: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Ahearne
Commissioner Asselstine
SECY
OGC
OPE

