



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Water Protection and Remediation Bureau

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(505) 827-2918 phone
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MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 15, 1997

Ron S. Ziegler, Operations Manager
ARCO Bluewater Uranium Mill
P.O. Box 638
Grants, NM 87020

Re: Termination of Discharge Plan, DP-454, ARCO Bluewater Uranium Mill

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is in receipt of your submittals dated August 1996, and December 3, 1996, requesting termination of discharge plan, DP-454, approved on March 31, 1993. DP-454 permits the dewatering and stabilization of the mill's tailings pile and the restoration of ground water to concentrations equal to or less than the concentrations as existing in the year 1978. Termination of discharge plan, DP-454, is hereby granted. The termination is based on the following information as detailed in ARCO's August, 1996, and December 3, 1996, submittals.

The dewatering and stabilization of the tailings pile has been accomplished as the result of ARCO's dewatering of the sand portion of the tailings via recovery wells, the dewatering of the slims portion of the tailings via 27,000 wicks, and obtaining the settling standards for the tailings pile as required in ARCO's U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Materials License.

Based on NMED's review of information in ARCO's iso-concentration maps submitted May 28, 1993, corrective Action Plan dated April 25, 1995, Discharge Plan Termination request dated August 19, 1996, and Statistical Analysis of Ground Water Monitoring at Bluewater, 1978 through 1996, it appears that present ground water quality at Bluewater has been restored to below concentrations existing in 1978.

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Although this discharge plan is being terminated by NMED at this time, you are not relieved of liability should it be determined that your operation resulted in actual pollution of surface or ground waters.

If you have any questions please call Dale Doremus, Program Manager, Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section at (505) 827-2945.

Sincerely,

Peter Maggiore

Peter Maggiore, Director
Environmental Protection Division

PM/RO/ro

cc: Ed Kelley, Director, WWMD
Nat Patel, AVM Environmental Services, Inc., 1717 Del Norte
Blvd., Grants, NM 87020
Ken Hooks, Licenses Project Manager, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission, (T-7J9), Washington DC, 20555-0061
Joe Virgona, Project Manager, DOE Grand Junction Projects
Office, 2597 B 3/4 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503
Don Metzler, Technical Manager, Ibid