



# State of Utah

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288 North 1460 West

P.O. Box 144870

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

(801) 538-6146 Voice

(801) 538-6016 Fax

(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.

January 8, 1996

Mr. James Holtkamp  
Stoel Rives Attorneys  
One Utah Center  
201 S. Main Street, Suite 1100  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111-4904

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Dear Mr. Holtkamp:

Subject: Atlas Uranium Mill Tailings, November 14, 1996 Schedule Modification  
Response: **Schedule Modification for Required Submittals.**

This letter is to respond to your November 14, 1996 submittal referenced above, and to clarify recent discussions regarding submittal of the required Ground Water Contaminant Investigation (GWCI) Report and Ground Water Corrective Action (GWCA) Plan for the Atlas uranium tailings facility near Moab, Utah specified in our September 12, 1996 Notice.

We agree that submittal of a schedule for completion of the GWCI Report and GWCA Plan can be deferred until after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Atlas tailings reclamation plan, anticipated sometime in March, 1997.

There also appears to be mutual agreement with the objective of avoiding the need to revisit ground water issues after closure of the tailings pile, which could potentially require retrofit of the NRC-approved closure design. Therefore, it is essential Atlas resolve State concerns regarding groundwater and surface water protection before construction or completion of any NRC-sanctioned closure mechanisms, including both closure of the tailings pile and decommissioning of the mill site and vicinity. In addition, resolution of State concerns will need to focus on both: 1) the Atlas Groundwater Corrective Action Plan currently approved or to be approved under the NRC license, and 2) the upcoming Atlas application to the NRC for groundwater alternate concentration limits for the uranium tailings facility.

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