



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 30, 1996

Mr. Richard Sena, Acting Director
Environmental Restoration Division
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
Project
U.S. Department of Energy
2155 Louisiana NE, Suite 4000
Albuquerque, NM 87110

SUBJECT: VICINITY PROPERTY COMPLETION REPORT FOR THE RIFLE, COLORADO
VICINITY PROPERTY NUMBER RF-510

Dear Mr. Sena:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the Vicinity Property Completion Report (CR) and the Vicinity Property Certification Summary and Decision for vicinity property RF-510 in Rifle, Colorado, submitted by letter dated July 29, 1996. NRC concurrence on this CR is required because the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) applied supplemental standards during remediation.

Supplemental standards were applied in order to leave buried tailings contamination (approximately 28 cubic yards over 28 square yards) in place under 30 to 66 inches of backfill in a narrow strip of inaccessible land bordered by railroad tracks to the north, the Colorado River to the south and east, and the City of Rifle Pond to the west. In conducting the planned excavation to the contaminated level, DOE hit a retaining wall for the railroad tracks at a depth of 30 inches and determined that continued excavation to the required depths would have resulted in instability of the adjoining railroad track bed on one side and the river bank on the other. DOE based the application of supplemental standards on criteria a and c of 40 CFR 192.21, because further remediation would present hazardous conditions for remediation workers, and because the estimated remedial cost would be high considering the limited anticipated potential use of the site. As a result, DOE determined that there would be a limited health benefit from further remediation of this portion of the property.

For the remediated portion of the property, none of the verification soil samples exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for Ra-226 in soil. The supplemental standards area was backfilled, resulting in background gamma levels. There are no buildings on the property.

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Based on the information provided by DOE, the NRC staff concurs that remediation of the vicinity property, which includes the application of supplemental standards, was completed in accordance with the EPA standards. The NRC Review Form for Supplemental Certification of Vicinity Properties, containing NRC concurrence, is enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Janet Lambert at (301) 415-6710.

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

cc: S. Arp, DOE Alb
J. Virgona, DOE GJPO
S. Hamp, DOE Alb
E. Artiglia, TAC Alb

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NAME	JLambert		DGillen		JHolonich					
DATE	10/29/96	E	10/28/96	H	10/20/96					

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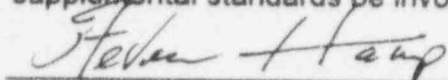
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VP No.: RF-510
NRC Review Form
for Supplemental Certification
of Vicinity Properties

The Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that the remedial action at the following vicinity property (VP) has been completed and thereby complies with supplemental standards invoked by DOE under 40 CFR, Subpart C, specifically Subsections 192.21 and 192.22.

☐ NRC concurrence for the Radiological Engineering Assessment (REA) given on: _____

☒ Supplemental standards were not in the REA, special circumstances required that supplemental standards be involved during remedial action.



Steven C. Hamp, DOE Certification Officer

7/29/96

Date

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Based on the information and certification provided by the DOE, the NRC:

☐ concurs that the remedial action at the subject VP has been completed under its authority provided by the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA), Section 104(f)(1) and as described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Appendix A, Section 3.4.

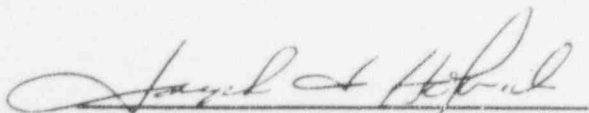
☐ concurs, as above, except for the following conditions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

☐ See attached sheets for any additional provisions.

☐ needs additional information to make a concurrence decision. This information consists of:

☐ See attached sheets for any additional informational needs.



NRC Concurring Official and Title

7/31/96

Date