



Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
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Recovery, Recovery Projects Branch
U.S. NRC, Mail Stop 623-SS
Washington, DC 20555

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WM Record File

WM Project 39

Docket No.

PDR ✓

LPDR

Distribution:

LRH DEM D. SMITH
Sollenberger G. NUCOLI
(Return to WMA, 623-SS)

Dear Mr. Higginbotham

The June monthly activity report is enclosed for your information. I hope the summer is going well for you.

Before I go to the highlights of the month, let me inform you that effective August 5, Felix Miera, the New Mexico State UMTRA Representative has moved to Oregon to replace Dave Markley who has taken a new job conducting wildlife excursions (his main love) to many exciting places in the world. Felix, we wish you well in your new position. Dave, we envy you. Congratulations to both of you.

Now for the June highlights:

- 0 Canonsburg remedial action is 55% complete.
- 0 Oregon has appropriated funds to cover all cost-shared work required for Lakeview prior to start of remedial action.
- 0 The Durango Task Force has endorsed relocation to Bodo Canyon as the preferred alternative allowing us to proceed with preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.
- 0 Vicinity property remedial action is underway at Canonsburg, Salt Lake City, Shiprock, Grand Junction, Riverton and Edgemont, and will start at Durango later this summer.

I've had very little feedback on my proposal to hold the next coordination meeting in Salt Lake City during October. I need your input immediately so we can make all of the necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,

John G. Themelis

John G. Themelis, Project Manager
Uranium Mill Tailings Project Office

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STATE/TRIBE MONTHLY STATUS
JUNE, 1985

CANONSBURG

Excavation work at the processing site continued including transfer of contaminated material from Area "A" to the encapsulation cell and excavation in Area "C" which is almost complete. Remedial action is 55 percent complete as of the end of June.

Remedial actions on 29 vicinity properties are currently underway, and bids on the remaining 31 properties will be received in July. Vicinity property remedial action is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by the end of September.

DOE and Morrison-Knudsen (M-K) staff met with the owner of the Burrell Landfill property on June 18. Temporary access to his property was discussed so that remedial action may begin. The owner seemed agreeable to providing temporary access; therefore, an agreement for his signature will be issued.

The final closeout meetings were held with M-K and Chem-Nuclear by the Technical Assistance Contractor (TAC), and DOE for the recent quality assurance (QA) and safety surveillances conducted on radiological support and construction safety activities.

A site-specific Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for the disposal site will be prepared and transmitted to NRC in early August in order to have ground-water monitoring wells, benchmarks, and site markers installed by M-K prior to remedial action completion.

SALT LAKE CITY

The railroad spur to the disposal site at Clive was completed and the rail operations and control system are functional. Relocation of the tailings will commence on July 2. The waste-water treatment facility is operational.

Work was essentially completed on the Hertz Truck property and is continuing on schedule at the White Truck property. Two other complex properties are under negotiation for Remedial Action Agreements (RAAs). Remedial action was initiated on 14 residential properties out of a bid package of 23, which is 43 percent ahead of currently scheduled milestones for FY 1985.

SHIPROCK

A notice to proceed was issued to the Navajo Engineering Construction Authority on June 12 for the Phase II site remedial action. NRC conditionally concurred in the Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

Remedial actions were initiated on schedule for the 12 vicinity properties bid in May.

GUNNISON

A meeting was held with the Colorado Department of Health (CDH) on alternate sites' cost comparisons. Task Force meetings are scheduled to present cost comparison information to the task force members prior to a public meeting in early July.

GRAND JUNCTION

The development of REAs is progressing well, due to extensive effort in this area by Bendix and the Colorado Department of Health (CDH). Forty REAs were submitted this month, as projected. Remedial actions on three additional vicinity properties were initiated, bringing to 30 the total to date against the forecasted target of 73 at the end of June.

RIFLE

A meeting to discuss alternate sites selection for relocation of the tailings piles was held with CDH. The two primary sites are privately owned. Efforts are underway to obtain landowner permission to drill these sites and the task force will be advised of DOE's intention to contact the landowners. A task force meeting will be held in Rifle in early July.

RIVERTON

On June 12, a meeting was held with American Nuclear Corporation (ANC) representatives to discuss ANC's proposal that the Riverton tailings be relocated to its Title II pond in the Gas Hills, 45 miles from the Riverton pile. ANC has an approved reclamation plan from the NRC for its pond #1, where the Riverton tailings would be located. The site's remoteness and deep ground-water table (100 feet below the surface) reveal it to be a good disposal site. The TAC will prepare a report on the technical and economic feasibility of this option which would include reclamation of the Riverton site, hauling of the tailings to the ANC pile, and possibly contouring and layering of the tailings. ANC would be responsible for the cover system.

On June 13, a meeting was held with NRC in Denver regarding the ANC proposal. NRC has no problems with the option, although an agreement among ANC, NRC, and DOE is necessary to specify in detail the exact boundary conditions of the option.

Remedial actions were initiated on schedule for the 11 vicinity properties bid in May.

LAKEVIEW

The State indicated it has sufficient funds to cover all cost-shared work required prior to start of remedial action. Subject to final agreement on the Collins Ranch site as the preferred alternative, this will permit the project

schedule to be maintained for a Spring 1986 construction start. The State is very concerned about the settlement of the owner's insurance claim for the Collins Ranch site and requested DOE to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

AMBROSIA LAKE

A meeting was held on June 3 with the state on the Cooperative Agreement and the Water Discharge and Restoration Plan. Progress was made on both issues.

FALLS CITY

Conoco informed the Project Office that they have submitted their reclamation plan for the Conquista Mill to the State of Texas and NRC. They were advised that DOE is still very much interested in disposing of the tailings in the Conquista tailings pile and will initiate discussions to that effect with the State and NRC. In a telecon with NRC, the Project Office was informed that the NRC legal staff has no objections to relocating the tailings to the Conoco mill site, which is governed by Title II of PL95-604. This assessment is contingent upon Title II regulations being used at the co-located site.

EDGEMONT

The State advised that it can provide in-kind service to match the balance of its FY 1986 funding requirement. This should permit accomplishment of \$684K worth of work through June 30, 1986.

Remedial actions were initiated on 10 of the 15 properties bid in May. This puts the Edgemont vicinity properties ahead of schedule on remedial action starts for FY 1985.

DURANGO

Excellent progress was made by Office of Chief Council (OCC) in negotiations with the State of Colorado and Hecla for a use agreement to permit temporary storage of vicinity property material on the mill site. Final agreement should be reached in July, thus permitting the start of some vicinity property remedial action this summer.

A resolution was passed by the Task Force recommending Bodo Canyon as the preferred option in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A similar recommendation by the state is expected in the very near future.

A legal notice and paid advertisement was placed in the Durango Herald in June. In addition, flyers were sent to the majority of property owners in La Plata County. The purpose of this public notice effort was to solicit input regarding the location of tailings on properties currently not designated. This effort in Durango represents the Project's most intensive effort in this regard to date. The last public response to this advertisement is expected in July.

Inclusion/exclusion recommendations on vicinity properties to date are 66 percent of the target established for the end of June. This is due to refusal by property owners to permit surveys and a lower than forecasted response to advertisement efforts. Consequently, Radiological and Engineering Assessment (REA) submittals and RAA approvals are behind forecast by 61 percent and 40 percent respectively. It is apparent that remedial action initiations will be below target for FY 1985; therefore, increased emphasis is being made to shift a portion of M-K's resources from Durango to Rifle vicinity properties.

GENERAL

The Project Office initiated action to institute a Cost Control Board and Project Trending system. The system will be in place before the end of July.

A meeting was held with NRC to discuss a DOE/NRC coordinated effort to develop an agreeable design approach to processing site remedial action. A plan was developed to prepare individual but compatible design approach documents by September 16, 1985.

On June 13, a meeting was held at the NRC offices in Silver Spring, Maryland, to resolve NRC comments on the Project Surveillance and Maintenance Plan. Revisions will be made to the plan, and it will be resubmitted to NRC for final review and comment by August 1.

NRC stated they are currently preparing general licensing requirements for UMTRA Project sites. Therefore, the DOE-initiated project licensing plan will be placed on hold pending completion of the NRC plan which is anticipated by mid-August.

The UMTRA Project site certification plan will be transmitted to NRC for review and comment in mid July, pending receipt and incorporation of DOE/HQ comments.

A meeting was held on June 14 with Department of Interior (DOI) contacts in order to discuss upcoming EIS and EA documents requiring DOI review.