

February 24, 1997

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: REVIEW OF REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE NATURITA, COLORADO, URANIUM  
MILL TAILINGS DISPOSAL SITE

Dear Mr. Sena:

On December 22, 1995, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission completed a review of the final draft of the Remedial Action (RAP) for the Naturita, Colorado, inactive uranium mill tailings site, and transmitted the results of that review in a Technical Evaluation Report (TER). On June 4, 1996, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided responses to open issues identified in the Naturita TER. After a preliminary review by the staff, DOE was notified that NRC's review, and the final TER, could not be completed until missing information relevant to the cell's erosion protection design was transmitted to NRC. Since issuance of the TER, the NRC staff has continued to work with your staff to ensure that they understand the TER open issues. The most recent of these discussions was via a telephone conference of February 19, 1997. In that call DOE indicated that some additional revisions and calculations to the Naturita design may be necessary prior to a complete submittal to NRC. Therefore, this letter is to notify you that the NRC staff will suspend any further work on the Naturita review and TER until such time as DOE's response is complete. Because of limited staff resources and a need to focus on other review priorities, I consider this action to be necessary at this time.

I appreciate and encourage your staff to continue its previous practice of keeping the NRC staff informed of DOE's progress in resolving the remaining open issues. If you have any questions concerning this letter, or should need any clarification of issues identified in the NRC staff's TER, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Ms. Charlotte Abrams, at (301) 415-5808.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: L. Woodworth, DOE Alb  
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