

February 26, 1997

National Mining Association
ATTN: Ms. Katie Sweeney
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

SUBJECT: MINUTES FROM JANUARY 28, 1997 MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes from the meeting held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff, yourself, and Mr. Anthony Thompson of Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge, on January 28, 1997, at the National Mining Association's (NMA's) offices. This meeting was one in a series of periodic meetings between the NRC staff and the NMA to discuss relevant issues in the uranium recovery program. As noted in the minutes, the next meeting is scheduled tentatively for Thursday, April 3, 1997, beginning at 2:00pm, at the NRC's offices in Rockville, Maryland.

If you have any questions about this letter or the enclosure, please contact Mr. James Park of my staff at (301) 415-6699.

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: A. Thompson, Shaw-Pittman

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MEETING MINUTES

PURPOSE: Public meeting between the NRC staff (Uranium Recovery Branch) and the National Mining Association (NMA) to discuss relevant issues in the uranium recovery program

DATE/TIME/LOCATION: January 28, 1997 / 9:00am - 11:30am EST / NMA offices in Washington, DC

ATTENDEES:

NRC

NMA

Joseph Holonich
James Park

Katie Sweeney
Anthony Thompson (Shaw, Pittman, et al.)

MINUTES:

March meeting on In-situ Leach (ISL) Standard Review Plan

The NRC staff will be hosting a full-day public meeting on March 19, 1997, in Riverton, WY, to discuss the staff's development of a Standard Review Plan (SRP) for its reviews of in-situ leach uranium mining license applications and license renewal applications. This meeting will be held following the uranium mining conference sponsored by the Wyoming Mining Association. During the NRC's meeting, the uranium recovery industry and the public will have an opportunity to aid in scoping the SRP by providing issues and areas of concern they believe should be addressed in the document. Among the issues that the NRC is considering addressing in the SRP are: (1) wellfield "flares," and (2) the use of total dissolved solids (TDS) levels, rather than individual constituent levels, in excursion monitoring.

NRC/NMA Uranium Recovery Industry Workshop

The next uranium recovery industry workshop to be jointly sponsored by the NRC and the NMA is scheduled tentatively for June 3-5, 1997, in Denver, Colorado. The NMA will make the necessary conference hotel and room reservations. Among the topics to be addressed, the NMA would like to have a presentation on the NRC's decommissioning rule, if the final rule has been published by June.

Financial Assurance

The NRC is in the process of preparing a generic letter on its interpretation of the requirements in Criterion 9 of 10 CFR Part 40, Appendix A.

In the November 1996 uranium recovery industry meeting, Mr. Thompson raised, for NRC consideration, the use of third-party (aka, standby) trust agreements as a viable surety arrangement. The NRC has conducted some internal meetings with its legal counsel concerning Mr. Thompson's inquiries; however, a followup call with Mr. Thompson has yet to be scheduled.

Enclosure

Other Items

- The NRC staff indicated that the Commission's response to the 2.206 petition filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council concerning Envirocare's NRC license will be made public by February 7, 1997.
- The National Institute of Safety and Health (NIOSH) is conducting an independent study of the effects of uranium milling on mill workers. NIOSH had conducted a similar study with Navajo mill workers in Arizona.
- The next bimonthly meeting between the NRC staff and the NMA was scheduled tentatively for April 3, 1997, at 2:00pm, in the NRC's offices in Rockville, MD.