

Umetco Minerals Corporation

04008681

RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.



WHITE MESA MILL • P.O. BOX 669 • BLANDING, UTAH 84511

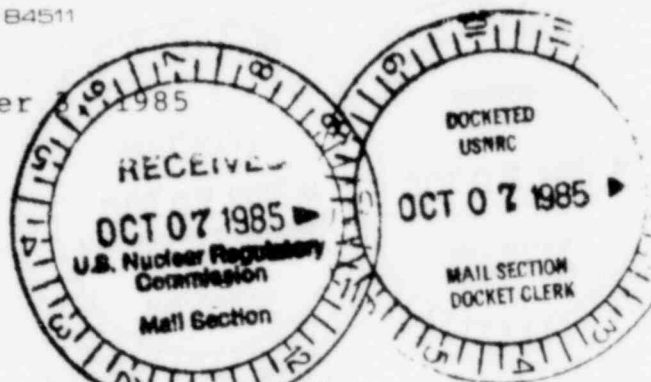
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RECEIVED

October 7, 1985

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Box 25325
Denver, CO 80225



Attn: Harry Pettengil

Dear Mr. Pettengil,

Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.403(b)(4) this is to notify you that a leach tank man-way door failed at the White Mesa Mill at around 8:30 p.m. September 30, 1985. About 100,000 gallons of slurry containing approximately 300 ton of ground ore was spilled on to the mill floor. This was the result of a weld failing on one of the man-way doors which was recently installed during the last shutdown.

Most of the slurring was retained within the concrete floor and leach sumps, however, due to the nature of the spill, (a jet stream with considerable force), some material flowed down the CCD pump house corridor and on into the emergency catchment basin. Some material pooled in the low places between the CCD entrance and the catchment basin. A small amount also flowed out the south door. Both areas cleaned up as quickly as possible the following morning.

Radiological samples were taken as quickly as possible after the incident and the results are as follows:

Radon Daughters

Front of #5 Leach Tank 0.0067 working levels are 2% MPC

Top of CCD Corridor 0.00 working levels

Airborne Uranium Samples

Front of #5 Leach Tank 3.4×10^{-13} ucl/ml

Front of #5 Leach Tank 1.4×10^{-13} ucl/ml

Beta Gamma .5 to .6 mr/hr inside the mill building

Beta Gamma .2 to .3 mr/hr outside area where material was retained outside west mill door

Beta Gamma .05 to .1 mr/hr after clean-up of outside area.

Cantamination levels were not high enough to cause any radiological hazard to personnel involved in the clean-up operation. Clean up was completed Tuesday morning.

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PDR ADOCK 04008681
C PDR

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By Mary C. Hord

Respectfully,

S. L. Schierman

S. L. Schierman
RADIATION PROTECTION OFFICER
White Mesa Mill

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