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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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BRANCH

G. Paul Bollwerk, Esq.
Administrative Judge
Presiding Officer
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. Charles N. Kalber
Administrative Judge
Special Assistant
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

In the Matter of
Atlas Corporation (Moab, Utah Facility)
(Request for Extension of Site Reclamation Plan Milestone)
Docket No. 40-3453-MLA

Dear Administrative Judges:

In the Presiding Officer's Memorandum and Order (Initial Order) dated February 12, 1997 (at 3), the NRC Staff ("Staff") was requested to inform the Presiding Officer by February 21, 1997, whether it wishes to participate as a party in this adjudication concerning the licensee's request to change the milestone completion date stated in License Condition 55 A.(3). In accordance with the Presiding Officer's Order and 10 C.F.R. § 2.1213, I wish to inform you that the Staff has determined that it does not desire to participate as a party in this MLA proceeding, if an adjudicatory hearing is in fact conducted.

In addition, the Staff has authorized me to inform you that it has reviewed the licensee's December 20, 1996 application, which states that an extension of the milestone date is required in order to allow completion of the Staff's review of the licensee's site reclamation plan and a three-year period for licensee implementation of the plan thereafter. The Staff is in agreement with the licensee's statements concerning these schedular matters. Although the site reclamation plan and the Staff's evaluations thereof are not at issue in this proceeding, the Staff notes that its technical evaluation report (TER) with respect to that plan is expected to be completed in about two months, and its related environmental impact statement (EIS) should be completed in about six months. The licensee's projection of a three-year licensee implementation period is consistent with the Staff's expectations.

Sincerely,

Sherwin E. Turk
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Service List