

November 25, 1968

J. R. Roetler, Chief, Materials
Inspection & Enforcement Branch
Division of Compliance, Headquarters

INQUIRY MEMORANDUM - ATLAS CORPORATION, ATLAS MINERALS
DIVISION, MOAB, UTAH, LICENSE NO. SUA-917, MISCELLANEOUS
(TAILINGS RELEASE TO COLORADO RIVER ON NOVEMBER 23, 1968)

On November 23, 1968, at 5:20 p.m., D. I. Walker received by telephone
a telegram report from the licensee as follows:

"Please be advised of incident involving a break in tailings
line releasing tailing from mill into the Colorado River
at 12:30 p.m., Saturday, November 23, 1968. The plant
was immediately shut down valve closed isolating the
portion of line that failed. Samples of the discharge at
the river have been taken and samples picked up one half
mile above the mill, and one quarter mile below, one half
mile below, one mile below, five miles below, ten miles
below. Samples will be picked up at four-hour intervals
for 24 hours. A letter will follow Monday, November 25
with details."

Telephone inquiry of W. P. Badger, Assistant Mill Superintendent, on
November 25, 1968, from Region IV, determined as follows:

A break occurred near the northwest terminus of the tails distribution
pipe sometime after 10:00 a.m., November 23, 1968. It was discovered
between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and the flow was stopped at 1:00 p.m.
Flow estimated at 200 to 300 gallons per minute flowed around the pond
to the southeast where it joined the normal, treated, effluent being
discharged from the automatic sampler and weir to the river.

The State of Utah has been notified. Region IV will investigate, with
report to be completed by December 15, 1968.

ORIGINAL SIGNED
BY JOHN J. WARD

John J. Ward
Investigation Specialist

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PDR ADDCK 04003453
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OFFICE ▶

CO:IV

SURNAME ▶

JJWard:8b

DATE ▶

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