

RTW 14
GNS 24

Allan E. Jones, Manager
Grand Junction Office

April 2, 1963

E. C. Van Elarcom
Division of Raw Materials

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE INSPECTION OF ATLAS CORPORATION MILL

DRM:ECVB

This mill was inspected in November 1962, and the inspector's report has been reviewed for DRM observation of important problems at the mill concerning radiation protection. Previous inspections were made in December 1957, February 1959, October 1959, and May 1960.

Operational changes noted since the previous inspection included the change to carbonate leaching, and institution of barite treatment of the effluent.

This report gives considerable emphasis to the importance of detailed evaluation of the exposure of persons to high air concentrations of uranium in short routine tasks such as changing concentrate drums, inspecting dryer, etc., and also in infrequent maintenance jobs such as replacing a dryer hearth.

The barite treatment of the effluent liquor seems to be quite efficient - 60 to 70% removal of radium and level of radium in the treated liquor is quite consistent. Radium values in the Colorado River upstream and downstream average out to the same figure over a 26-month period. A test comparing the procedure of acidifying a sample of effluent before radium analysis, versus assaying a filtered sample and neglecting the solids showed that in the former, the radium was 6 times higher; thorium was 30 times higher, and uranium was about the same. N.B.

cc: Leo Dubinski, CO

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From CU - nuqis.

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