



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

NOV 12 1976

DOCKET NO.: 40-3453

LICENSEE: Atlas Minerals Corp.

FACILITY: Atlas Minerals Uranium Mill, Moab, Utah

SUBJECT: SITE VISIT, OCTOBER 21, 1976

On October 21, 1976, J. B. Martin and the writer, L. C. Rouse, of NRC visited the Atlas Minerals Uranium Mill located at Moab, Utah, accompanied by P. F. Gustafson, W. J. Hallett and D. L. McGregor of the Argonne National Laboratory. The visit was made as a part of a trip (following the Uranium Industry Seminar held in Grand Junction, Colorado, on October 19 & 20, 1976) to view a series of uranium mill tailings areas, both active and inactive, in Utah and Colorado. Other locations visited were the operating Rio Algom mill site near La Sal, Utah; the stabilized tailings area at the site of the former Monticello, Utah mill; the tailings area left by the former mill in Durango, Colorado; the tailings area of the former Naturita, Colorado mill; and the operating uranium mill at Uravan, Colorado.

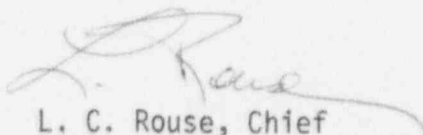
The site visit to the Atlas mill included observation of the status of the tailings area and a walk-through of a portion of the mill circuit, with particular attention given to the crushing area and the yellowcake packaging area. Contacts and discussions were with Mr. Gary E. Boyer, Mill Superintendent.

Following the tour of the tailings area and mill, the following observations were made by the NRC staff members and discussed with Mr. Boyer:

1. NRC staff members expressed concern about the dusty conditions observed in the crushing area. Improvement in dust control to minimize employee exposures was advised by NRC; periodic Atlas management review of the conditions was recommended. Mr. Boyer agreed to give attention to this matter.

2. Yellowcake contamination was observed on surfaces in the drying-packaging area. Mr. Boyer agreed to consider additional, more thorough washdowns of the area. He noted that Atlas was upgrading the ventilation-exhaust system for this area, and that the plans call for physical isolation of the packaging area. The NRC staff members noted that the NRC inspectors of Region IV would be notified and asked to look for any improvement that might be noted in air sampling data for the area.
3. Mr. Boyer reported that a radon sampling program for occupational workers was in effect. Mr. Rouse noted that the sampling results will be important to demonstrate efforts to minimize personnel exposures, particularly in suspect areas such as crushing, grinding, ore bins and leaching areas with attention being given to enclosed areas where personnel occupancy may occur.
4. In viewing the tailings area, the interim stabilization of the tailings embankment system appeared satisfactory and should minimize any wind-blown tailings during the operational period of the mill.
5. In discussing possible seepage, it was suggested that Atlas should consider additional well monitoring on the downstream side of the tailings embankment to monitor any movement of radium or other contaminants (including non-radiological) toward the river. Mr. Boyer agreed to discuss this matter with its consultant, Dames & Moore.
6. It was noted that NRC was committing resources to conclude the license renewal decision. The Argonne consultants who are assisting the NRC in the preparation of the environmental impact statement for the Atlas mill have scheduled a plant visit for mid-November to expedite this part of the renewal process.

The meeting ended with agreement between the NRC representatives and Mr. Boyer of Atlas on the above summary. It was further agreed that if Atlas management should have or see any problems developing related to the licensing process, contact should be made with Mr. Martin or the writer; NRC representatives would work in a similar manner.



L. C. Rouse, Chief  
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Material Safety

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Docket 40-3453

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Original Signed by  
Leland D. Rouse

L. C. Rouse, Chief  
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