



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 14, 1997

Mr. George Rael, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
ERD/UMTRA
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

SUBJECT: VICINITY PROPERTY COMPLETION REPORT FOR THE RIFLE, COLORADO,
VICINITY PROPERTY NUMBER RF-103

Dear Mr. Rael:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its review of the page changes submitted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by letter dated February 11, 1997, in response to NRC comments on the Vicinity Property Completion Report (CR) for vicinity property RF-103 (south of Highway 6 West) in Rifle, Colorado. NRC concurrence with this CR is required because DOE applied supplemental standards to the remediation of this vicinity property.

Supplemental standards were applied in order to leave tailings contamination (approximately 1417 cubic yards over 8485 square yards) under, and out to 15 feet from railroad tracks owned by the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad (a portion of the mainline and six spur lines). Since complete remediation would have required the removal and replacement of 3180 feet of track in order to excavate the contaminated material, the railroad would not allow remediation of those areas. DOE based the application of supplemental standards on criteria a and c of 40 CFR 192.21 because of the owner's concerns and the hazardous conditions for remediation workers, and because the estimated remedial cost would be high considering the potential use of this portion of the property.

For the remediated portion of the property, none of the verification soil samples recorded exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for Ra-226 in soil. Interior contamination was removed from beneath shed #2. As a result, working level and gamma radiation (uR/hr) limits, as required by 40 CFR 192.12(b)(2), were achieved.

Based on its review of the CR and the information provided in DOE's response to comments, the NRC staff concurs that DOE's remediation of the vicinity property, which includes the application of supplemental standards, was appropriate and was completed in accordance with the EPA Standards. The NRC Review Form for Supplemental Certification of Vicinity Properties, containing NRC concurrence, is enclosed.

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NRC concurrence was not obtained for the Radiological Engineering Assessment (REA) for RF-103, even though supplemental standards were planned. To bring closure to this issue, NRC staff is also using this letter to provide concurrence on the REA for RF-103.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Janet Lambert at (301) 415-6710.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: S. Arp, DOE Alb
J. Virgona, DOE GJPO
S. Hamp, DOE Alb
E. Artiglia, TAC Alb

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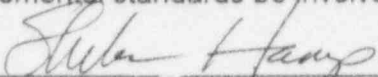
VP No.: RF-103
NRC Review Form
for Supplemental Certification
of Vicinity Properties

The Department of Energy (DOE) has determined that the remedial action at the following vicinity property (VP) has been completed and thereby complies with supplemental standards invoked by DOE under 40 CFR, Subpart C, specifically Subsections 192.21 and 192.22.

[X] NRC concurrence for the Radiological Engineering Assessment (REA) given on: _____

Note: NRC concurrence was not obtained although supplemental standards were applied.

[] Supplemental standards were not in the REA, special circumstances required that supplemental standards be involved during remedial action.


Steven C. Hamp, DOE Certification Officer

FEB 11 1997

Date

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Based on the information and certification provided by the DOE, the NRC:

[] concurs that the remedial action at the subject VP has been completed under its authority provided by the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA), Section 104(f)(1) and as described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Appendix A, Section 3.4.

[] concurs, as above, except for the following conditions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

[] See attached sheets for any additional provisions.

[] needs additional information to make a concurrence decision. This information consists of:

[] See attached sheets for any additional informational needs.

NRC Concurring Official and Title

Date