



U.S. Department of Energy

Grand Junction Office
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Grand Junction, CO 81503

FEB 18 1999

N. King Stablein, Acting Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T7J9
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Stablein:

Enclosed for your information, review, and comment are two copies of the *Final Site Observational Work Plan (SOWP) for the UMTRA Site at Grand Junction, Colorado*. This document is not a required state or Nuclear Regulatory Commission concurrence document. Rather, the purpose of this document is to document how the DOE, state representatives, and the concerned public apply the observational method for building a conceptual model, selecting a ground water compliance strategy, and protecting public health and the environment at the Grand Junction, Colorado, UMTRA Site. In addition, enclosed are two copies of a report entitled *Ground Water Study at Two UMTRA Project Vicinity Properties in Grand Junction, Colorado*.

Based on detailed analyses of site data, the proposed ground water compliance strategy at the Grand Junction former processing site is no remediation, based on the application of Supplemental Standards. This compliance strategy is based on a conceptual model that indicates site-related contamination is confined to a limited-use aquifer as defined in the EPA Ground Water Standards.

The SOWP process started with transmittal of the following documents: 1) *Baseline Risk Assessment of Ground Water Contamination at the Uranium Mill Tailings Site Near Grand Junction, Colorado* (1994); 2) *SOWP, Rev. 0* (1996); 3) *Work Plan for Characterization Activities at the UMTRA Grand Junction Project Site* (1997); and 4) *Final SOWP* (1999). During this time, additional detailed ground water characterization occurred, and the observational method was used to reduce uncertainties about the physical and chemical system. During detailed ground water characterization, the DOE screened all vicinity properties within the Grand Junction area to determine the potential for ground water characterization at each property. Ground water characterization was done at the two properties showing the highest potential for ground water contamination.

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The DOE is currently starting the National Environmental Policy Act documentation and public involvement required prior to finalizing the ground water compliance action plan.

If you have comments on these documents, they need to be transmitted to DOE by April 1, 1999, in order to meet scheduled milestones. Please call me at (970) 248-7612 if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss these subjects.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Metzler
Technical/Project Manager

Enclosure: (2) GRJ SOWP & VP Study

cc w/o enclosure:

C. Abrams, NRC

M. Layton, NRC

S. Marutzky, MACTEC-ERS

File GWGRJ1.1 (P. Taylor)

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