

CO.1-3



Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

DEC 23 1977

James L. Liverman, Acting Assistant
Secretary for Environment, HQ

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

On December 7, 1977, Edward J. Jascewsky, Department of Energy (DOE), and Walter H. Smith, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), visited the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute (CSMRI). The purpose of the visit was to discuss the past operations at these facilities that involved work under Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Contract AT(49-6)-916 and AT(05-1)-462. The former contract work pertained to physical concentration and pilot plant testing of various uranium ores. The latter contract involved the preparation of a book on uranium ore processing. Personnel visited were Robert Merritt, Burt Mariacher, and Jerry Krause.

Discussion with the above personnel established that the work with uranium ores is still in progress. This work is being done under a State of Colorado license, and radiological surveys are being performed by Dr. Krause who is the Assistant Radiation Safety Officer.

A cursory survey of the facility was performed by Messrs. Jascewsky and Smith. The instruments used were an Eberline gas proportional counter (PAC-4G-3) and an Eberline end window geiger mueller detector (Model E-530). Elevated levels were found mainly in one area of the facility (high bay area). This material was found to be embedded in the concrete surfaces. There is no way to determine if the activity is a result of past or present operations. The area where the tailings are disposed of was also surveyed, and levels on the bank of the waste pond were found to be in excess of background levels with a maximum find of one millirem per hour. These tailings are a result of their present operations.

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Since the facility is still operated under a state license for active research using uranium and is being monitored by the organization's Radiation Protection Officer, I recommend that no detailed radiological survey be performed by the DOE/ANL resurvey team.

Letter to Bauhan for

Robert H. Bauer
Manager

SD:EJJ

cc: R. Wynveen, ANL
W. Smith, ANL
W. E. Mott, ECT, HQ
R. Merritt, Colorado School of Mines