



August 30, 2006

Re: *Moab Mill Project: A Technical Report Towards Reclaiming Uranium Mill Tailings along the Colorado River in Grand County, Utah.*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for your review and consideration is *The Moab Mill Project: A technical report towards reclaiming uranium mill tailings along the Colorado River in Grand County, Utah*. The project is supported by a grant from the Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund.

The report includes two studies related to the behavior of the Colorado River in the vicinity of the Moab Mill Site where the Department of Energy (DOE) is carrying out the remediation of the former Atlas Corporation Uranium Mill, pursuant to federal law. The first study, by Dr. John C. Dohrenwend, is "A Review: Department of Energy's Assessment of Potential Flood Hazards at the Moab Project Site (Atlas Tailings Pile)," January 2005. The second, by Dr. Noam Greenbaum, is "Paleofloods in the Upper Colorado River near Moab, Utah," May 2006.

The first report was submitted to the DOE as comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Remediation of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings. Dr. Dohrenwend's review was one of the studies relating to the potential long-term impact of the Colorado River should the estimated 16-million tons of uranium mill tailings be left on site. It was one of the studies that the DOE took into consideration when it decided to move the Moab Mill tailings from the floodplain of the Colorado River to a site at Crescent Junction, 30 miles north.

The second report is the result of a paleoflood study carried out upstream of the Moab site. The study, based on fieldwork carried out in the summer of 2005, brings forth a whole new set of data related to the flood behavior of the Colorado River within the past several thousand years. Most significantly, the study provides new information that alters previous determinations of the flood discharge rates for the 100-year and 500-year floods and the probable maximum flood (PMF). This new data must be considered and further investigations initiated.

Additional copies of this report can be obtained by contacting John Weisheit: john@livingrivers.org, 435-259-1063; Sarah M. Fields: sarahmfields@earthlink.net, 435-259-4734. The report (with additional photos and diagrams) is available on the web at: <http://www.livingrivers.org/MoabMillProject.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Weisheit".

John S. Weisheit
Conservation Director