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Tel. 301/415-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, February 8, 1995)

NRC, BLM, BIA TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS
ON URANIUM MINING PROJECT IN NEW MEXICO

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, will hold three public meetings in Crownpoint and Church Rock, New Mexico, on February 22 and 23. Purpose of the meetings is to obtain public comments on the recently published draft environmental impact statement on the proposal by Hydro Resources, Inc., to construct and operate the Crownpoint Uranium Solution Mining Project.

The project would be located near the towns of Church Rock and Crownpoint, in McKinley County northeast of Gallup.

After weighing the environmental, technical and other benefits of the proposed project against the costs, the draft environmental impact statement concludes that it would be appropriate to issue the requested license and leases authorizing the applicant to proceed with the project.

The first two public meetings will be held on February 22 at the Crownpoint Chapter House, Crownpoint, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The third public meeting will be held on February 23 at the Church Rock Chapter House, Church Rock, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Interested persons are invited to attend the meetings and make comments on the draft environmental impact statement. A Navajo language interpreter will be present to provide translation.

Written comments may also be submitted. They should be sent to the Chief, High-Level Waste and Uranium Recovery Projects Branch, Mail Stop TWFN 7-J9, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Written comments should be received by February 28.

A notice of availability of the draft statement was first published last November 14, with comments requested by January 14. In response to requests for an extension, the closing date for comments has been extended to February 28.

A free single copy of the draft environmental statement (which has been assigned the identification number "NUREG-1508") is available by writing to the NRC Publications Section, Attention: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7082. A copy is also available for copying in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

Comments received on the draft environmental impact statement will be addressed in the final statement, which will be published at a future date.

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