

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 09/09/03

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FINAL REPLY:

Governor M. Michael Rounds
State of South Dakota

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 03-0556

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

ROUTING:

Proposed Underground Laboratory

Travers
Norry
Paperiello
Kane
Collins
Deans
Burns
Gwynn, RIV
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 08/28/03

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Aug 27, 2003 18:05

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-03-0556

LOGGING DATE: 08/27/2003

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: GOV M. Michael Rounds

AFFILIATION: SD-GOV

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Concerns the conversion of Homestake Gold Mine in South Dakota into a premier underground science lab

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs, RF

LETTER DATE: 08/18/2003

ACKNOWLEDGED No

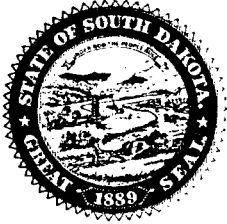
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 09/11/2003

DATE SIGNED:



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

August 18, 2003

Mr. Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0111

Dear Chairman Diaz:

The potential for significant advancement of the fundamental scientific understanding of the physical universe is available to the world through a special opportunity that is on South Dakota's doorstep. We ask for your help in opening the door to this critical scientific understanding through the conversion of the 8,000-foot deep Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, South Dakota, into the world's premier underground science laboratory. In May of this year, the National Science Foundation announced the selection of the Homestake mine as the most favorable site for the proposed deep underground laboratory. The construction and implementation of the laboratory requires the completion of a competitive approval process involving the National Science Foundation, the executive branch of the federal government, and Congress.

In June, I directed the formation of the Homestake Laboratory Conversion Project to provide assistance in creating a Scientific and Technological Facilities Authority (Authority). Creation of the Authority will allow for an effective process to enable transfer of ownership from the Homestake Corporation, the owner of the mine, to the state of South Dakota. I will be calling a Special Session of the South Dakota State Legislature to meet for the express purpose of approving legislation establishing the Authority.

We need to assure our citizens that we will provide processes in the Authority to assure a culture that safeguards the highest level of life-safety, environmental and risk management standards. Ours is not a request for funding, but a request for access to the knowledge that can come only through experience.

We seek the opportunity to draw upon the vast experience the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has gained in the management and control of the many complex systems vital to our nation's nuclear policy. We request access to persons that you would find most appropriate to assist us in the formation of the regulatory processes to enable the Authority to determine and adjudicate risk in the development and operation of the laboratory. The Authority will have the responsibility to act on behalf of the people of South Dakota and the nation to assure that the collective efforts of the many contractors,

universities, scientists, agencies of the federal government or other participants provide a safe and risk managed environment for the operation of the underground research facility.

The successful implementation of the laboratory, and the resulting scientific studies of neutrinos, particle physics, geo-science and other areas of critical scientific development, will have a major impact upon the scientific community, as well as an important impact upon education and economic development not only in South Dakota, but across the country and the world.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for help in establishing the processes to enable the Authority to provide the safe environment for conversion of the Homestake mine to the deep underground laboratory.

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds

MMR:ls

Cc: The Honorable Tom Daschle
The Honorable Tim Johnson
The Honorable William J. Janklow