

COPIES to: BOB MARTIN
DICK BARKER
BILL BROWN
GARY SANBORN
BOB DODA

6/17

RAS

40-8907

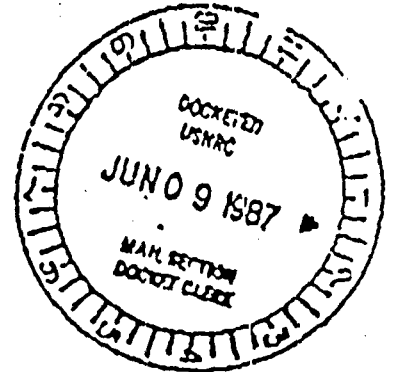
Item

Reply to: Navajo Elected Officials
Puerco River Valley
c/o Ernest C. Becenti Jr.
P.O. Box 79
Church Rock, NM 87311

FYE

May 22, 1987

Mr. Harry Pettengill
Uranium Recovery Field Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 25325
Denver, CO 80225



Dear Mr. Pettengill:

The undersigned are Tribal Council delegates for the Church Rock and Pinedale chapters of the Navajo Nation in the Puerco River Valley of western New Mexico and eastern Arizona. Mr. Martin attended the public information meeting sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on April 6, 1987, at Red Rock State Park.

During the public meeting, you stated that United Nuclear Corp. is expected to submit to your office its proposed reclamation plan for the uranium mill and tailings site in T16N, R16W, Section 2, McKinley County, New Mexico, by the middle to the end of May 1987. In behalf of the Navajo residents of the area, we respectfully request that your office provide copies of the reclamation plan to the Tribal Council delegates for each of the Church Rock and Pinedale chapters of the Navajo Nation. As the attached map shows, residents of these chapters are directly affected by the UNC tailings site.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a letter we have sent to the EPA Superfund project officer for the UNC site. We reiterate to NRC our collective concern that the lack of delineation of EPA's and NRC's respective authorities at the United Nuclear site is contributing to confusion within the local communities about the roles of each agency. We respectfully request your immediate attention to completing the pending Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRC and EPA so that these confusions are resolved. We would appreciate receiving a copy of the MOU when it is completed.


We also reiterate our request for a follow-up public meeting in the local community when the jurisdictional issues are resolved and when the NRC staff has made at least a preliminary review of UNC's reclamation plan. At that follow-up meeting, we would expect to give you some idea of the issues that our people expect to be addressed in the reclamation plan, including the extent to which contaminated ground water in and near the site will be decontaminated and returned to pre-mining conditions.

F/6

Mr. Harry Pettengill
May 22, 1987
page 2

We thank you for your presentation at the April 6 meeting, and look forward to seeing your written response to this letter.

Sincerely,


Ernest C. Boehlert Jr., Council Delegate
Church Rock Chapter


Raphael Martin, Council Delegate
Pinedale Chapter

cc: Alan Tavener, EPA
Steve Cary, NMEID