

February 21, 2008

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your January 16, 2008, letter in which you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) prepare a 5-year Action Plan for addressing uranium contamination in the Navajo Nation.

NRC's role is limited to the regulation of uranium milling and regulation of uranium mill tailings cleanup by licensees. Additionally, the NRC either provides its concurrence or approval on specific items in the clean-up of uranium contamination by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Therefore, the NRC does not have a direct role in completing the cleanup actions itemized in your letter. However, the NRC can contribute to successful and timely completion of some of these actions through its oversight of licensees and concurrence or approval of DOE actions, and through strong interaction and consultation with the Navajo Nation on NRC's regulatory activities.

Enclosed is a summary of NRC actions that includes key regulatory improvements made during the 1980s, and ongoing and planned regulatory actions related to the health and environmental impacts of uranium contamination in the Navajo Nation. In preparing this summary of actions, we have coordinated with the other Federal agencies involved. Please let me know if you require any further information from the NRC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: Summary of NRC Actions

February 21, 2008

The Honorable Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Executive Director
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Identical letters sent to Congressman Henry A. Waxman and Congressman Tom Davis.

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