November 13, 2008

Mr. Norman Cooeyate, Governor
Pueblo of Zuni
P.O. Box 339
Zuni, NM 87327

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MEETING CONCERNING POTENTIAL LICENSING ACTIONS FOR URANIUM MILLING FACILITIES

Dear Governor Cooeyate:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is extending an invitation to you or your designated representatives of the Pueblo of Zuni for a government-to-government meeting on matters concerning potential licensing actions associated with uranium milling facilities. The purpose of this government-to-government meeting would be to discuss items of mutual interest related to uranium milling. The NRC staff respectfully suggests the period of January 5, 2009, thru January 15, 2009, for this proposed meeting, at a convenient time and place. It is important to establish your availability and interest in such a meeting as quickly as possible to facilitate planning.

The NRC staff proposes the following topics for this meeting: (1) NRC's licensing process for uranium milling facilities; (2) the NRC staff's draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for In-Situ Leach Uranium Milling Facilities (Draft GEIS); and (3) procedures for contacting the tribe and the level of tribal participation desired in environmental reviews, if any site-specific applications for uranium milling are filed in the area. Please advise if you have other topics related to uranium recovery which you want to discuss.

We would like to discuss this matter further with you. Mr. Mathews George of my staff is the NRC Project Manager of the GEIS effort. He can be reached at 301-415-7065 or by electronic mail at Mathews.George@nrc.gov. Enclosed is a copy of our strategy for outreach and communication that the NRC has developed to guide our interactions and may be found on our website at http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/ind-tribe-strat.pdf.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure: Strategy for outreach
and communication

cc: Jonathan Damp, Pueblo of Zuni

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Pueblo of Zuni
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Zuni, NM 87327-0339