ENVIRONMENT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
P. O. Box 968
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
Radiation Protection Section

January 22, 1979

H.J. Abbiss, Vice President
Environmental and Safety Services
Mining and Milling Division
United Nuclear Corporation
P.O. Box 3951
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Mr. Abbiss:

As agreed at the end of our meeting on January 19, 1979, I am forwarding a copy of the draft license amendment conditions for your proposed mine backfilling operation using coarse tailings sands. I would appreciate, for our records, a note from you stating your agreement with the draft. In the meantime I will initiate our staff coordination action. As I commented during our meeting, there may be changes to the draft during coordination and I will inform you if any occur. I wish to advise you that I am departing from our normal procedure in response to your request for expeditious action.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Stewart
Environmental Scientist III

GWS/ah

Enclosure

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PDR ADOCK 04008907
C PDR

License Number NM-UNC-ML-06 is amended to become License Number NM-UNC-ML-07

United Nuclear Corporation
Mining and Milling Division
P.O. Box 3951
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

In accordance with letter dated January 12, 1979, signed by H.J. Abbiss, Vice President, Environmental and Safety Services, subject license is amended as follows:

6F.	All natural radio-isotopes encountered in uranium mill tailings sands.	7F. Chemical and physical forms encountered in uranium mill tailings sands.	8F. As necessary for the transfer authorized in item 9F.

9F. This license authorizes the use of coarse tailing sands from United Nuclear Churchrock Mill located at Section 2 T16N R16W for backfilling excavated mine stopes in the UNC Northeast Churchrock Mine and in the UNC Old Churchrock mine located at Section 35 T17N R16W - Section 17 T16N R16W, respectively, using approximately 700,000 tons on an operational test basis in accordance with the statements, representations, and conditions in the licensee's letter dated January 12, 1979, signed by H.J. Abbiss, and meeting agreements January 19, 1979 concerning license conditions between the Division and UNC.

10. The licensee is hereby exempt from the requirements of NMED Radiation Protection Regulations Part 4-220 E.2 for areas within the mine and tailings storage area at the mine provided all entrances to the mine and tailings storage area at the mine are conspicuously posted in accordance with Part 4-220 E.2 and with the words, "ANY AREA WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY MAY CONTAIN RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL."

33. The licensee's air monitoring program shall consist of the following:

A. Radon measurements taken at tailings loading and unloading areas and storage area at mine. The first set of radon measurements shall be taken prior to transfer of coarse tailings sands and a second set one week after start of transfer. A third set of radon measurements shall be taken two weeks after the second set. Subsequent radon measurements shall be taken at monthly intervals or more frequently if indicated for personnel safety.

B. Particulate air samples shall be taken at the same locations as in 33A above and at the same frequency sequence. Samples shall be analyzed for natural uranium, thorium 230 and radium 226.

C. Working level measurements of radon daughters shall be made in the area of the mine being backfilled at least weekly. Data from mine safety working level measurements can be substituted for this condition if it meets the sampling frequency.

34. The results of the above air monitoring program shall be provided to the Division for review by the Division and the licensee after three months of operation. The above air monitoring program may be modified as a result of this review. Sampling should be keyed as near as possible to actual backfilling operation. The above air monitoring program shall be executed by the licensee instead of the program described in paragraph 4 of the licensees January 12, 1979 letter.

35. Personnel at the loading, unloading and storage areas where the coarse tailings sands are handled shall wear personnel dosimeter badges.

36. Not withstanding the original license expiration date, license authority for items 6F, 7F, 8F and 9F shall expire June 30, 1980.