ENVIRONMENT department

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
P.O. Box 968, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
(505) 827-5271
Thomas E. Baca, M.P.H., Director

Bruce King
GOVERNOR

George S. Goldstein, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

Larry J. Gordon, M.S., M.P.H.
DEPUTY SECRETARY

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SECTION

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 23, 1979

Mr. Noel Savignac, Manager
Environmental Services
United Nuclear Corporation
P.O. Box 3951
Albuquerque, N.M. 87110

Re: Discharge Plan approval for Northeast Church Rock Mine Stope Backfill

Dear Mr. Savignac:

The discharge plan (DP-63), dated February 13, 1979, for the United Nuclear Corporation's mine stope backfilling operational test at the Northeast Church Rock Mine, is hereby approved with the following provision. Within two weeks from receipt of this letter U.N.C. will confirm in writing the commitments discussed between U.N.C. (John Abbiss and Todd Miller) and E.I.D. (Maxine Goad, Don Runnells, Charles Nylander, Bruce Gallaher) in a meeting on May 16, 1979. Those commitments are:

1. United Nuclear Corporation will sample monthly at the three water collection points detailed in the plan for the duration of this approval, and report the analytical results to NM EID upon receipt of laboratory reports. All the samples shall be analyzed for the constituents tabulated in the plan.

2. U.N.C. will immediately submit calculated cross sectional areas of the zones most likely to be backfilled.

3. U.N.C. will immediately conduct simulated rinsing experiments using selected tailing material and rinse solutions. The Company will analyze the percolate from these experiments for Aluminum, Sulfate, Conductivity, Cyanide, and pH. A minimum of four (4) percolate samples will be analyzed and results will be reported to EID upon receipt from the laboratory.

If any of the commitments stated above are not accurate, or do not reflect United Nuclear Corporation's intent, please notify me immediately and consider this approval withdrawn until further notice.

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The discharge plan was submitted pursuant to Section 3-106 of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission regulations. It is approved pursuant to Section 3-109. Please note subsections 3-109.E and 3-109.F, which provide for possible future amendment of the plan. Please also be advised that the approval of this plan does not relieve you of liability should your operation result in actual pollution of surface or ground waters which may be actionable under other laws and/or regulations.

Pursuant to subsection 3-109.G.4, this plan approval is for a period of four months. This approval will expire September 23, 1979, and you should submit an application for new approval in ample time before that date. It is understood that the new application will require public notification and time for staff evaluation.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Baca
Director

TEB/BG/mkt

cc: William Bennett, EID District I Manager
Gerald Stewart, EID Radiation Protection Section
Carl Woolfolk, EID, Milan, N.M.
Todd Miller, U.N.C., Gallup
Paul Robinson, Southwest Research and Information Center