ENVIRONMENT department

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June 15, 1981

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Thomas E. Baca
Director

FROM: Ron Conrad and Kent Breese RC KB

RE: UNC Proposal to place dry tailings sands in North Pond.

Thomas M. Hill of UNC has proposed to you in a June 3, 1981 letter to place dry, coarse tailings sands in the presently unused North Pond for deposition and for storage for their backfilling operation.

We have given considerable attention to possible problems of aggravated groundwater and air contamination that such a proposal might present.

The attached Raney Geotechnical Job No. 053-001 states that only cyclone underflow sands will be transferred, and maximum moisture content of transferred sands will be 15%. The State Engineer's conditional approval (attached) requires the use of mechnical means (i.e. a front end loader) in the transfer, to preclude the use of wet sands. Thomas M. Hill further agreed in a telephone conversation with Ron Conrad on June 10, 1981 that the transferred sands would be spread out in the North Pond so as to maximize evaporation and minimize seepage of any rain catchment.

The problem of air contamination due to blowing sands should actually be ameliorated by the operation, as the existing fines in the North Pond will be covered up by coarser, heavier sands. We therefore recommend approval of the proposal to transfer dry, coarse tailings sands to the North Pond.

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