

Bruce King
GOVERNOR

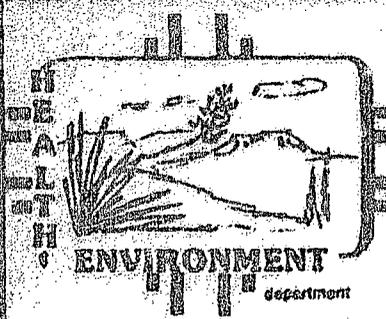
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION
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Thomas E. Baca, M.P.H., Director
Radiation Protection Section



April 25, 1979

James M. Rosel
Attorney at Law
Ranchers Exploration
and Development Corporation
1776 Montano Road N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87197

Dear Mr. Rosel:

I appreciate your response to my concerns about your licensed backfilling operation using coarse tailings sands. Your explanation of how you use the quantity of sand actually transferred is very reasonable and acceptable. In regard to your final paragraph concerning an increase in the transfer rate, I will evaluate any proposal and base my conclusion on the facts presented and meeting the requirements of New Mexico Radiation Protection Act and Regulations.

I will not comment on each response. Your organization has made a commendable effort in clarifying some points of concern, recognizing data gaps and the need to review your sampling program. There are some points that I want to be sure that you and your people are aware of:

1. We are reviewing your data in relation to your licensed operations;
2. Your data is necessary for our environmental evaluation of tailings sand backfilling;
3. Consistency and validity of your data is important;
4. Your data is needed for assurance of radiation protection for personnel and property.

Inform me when you have completed the review and evaluation of your sampling program. Consistency in reporting sampling dates, locations and data are essential. I am not prepared to draw any conclusions from the data submitted so far, but hopefully a clearer picture may develop in the next six months if the sampling program is carefully followed.

Sincerely,


Gerald W. Stewart
Environmental Scientist III

GWS/ah

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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