August 15, 2014

Ms. Deborah Steckley
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT FOR UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION CHURCH ROCK MILL SITE, SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE NO. SUA-1475

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently reviewing a license amendment request from United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) a subsidiary of General Electric, dated April 17, 2012, to revise background groundwater protection standards for the Church Rock Mill site, Source Materials License No. SUA-1475. The UNC Church Rock Mill site is located in McKinley County, New Mexico. This inactive uranium mill operated from May 1977 to May 1982 and has a groundwater corrective action program in progress at the site.

The NRC staff is reviewing UNC's request in accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material", and Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation." In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the NRC staff has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The purpose of the draft EA is to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed license amendment and reasonable alternatives. The NRC staff concludes in the draft EA that the proposed action (i.e., approving the groundwater protection standards as proposed in UNC's license amendment request) would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The NRC staff also conducted a technical evaluation of UNC's request to amend the license for the Church Rock Mill site, pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 40 and 20. The results of the technical evaluation are documented in a separate Technical Evaluation Report, which will be made publicly available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) once the NRC's issues its final decision on UNC's proposed amendment request.

Enclosed is a copy of the draft EA, which is marked as pre-decisional information, for review and comment by State and Federal personnel only. The NRC staff requests that the distribution and use of this document be limited only to State and Federal staff involved in the review and comment process. It is further requested that comments be provided to the NRC staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter and its enclosure.

The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the final EA, the NRC staff plans to publish its FONSI in the *Federal Register.*

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The ADAMS accession number for the license amendment is ML12150A146.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ashley Waldron of my staff by telephone at 301-415-6005 or by email at Ashley.Waldron@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Andy Imboden, Acting Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and
Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No. 40-8907
License No. SUA-1475

Enclosure: Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: UNC Church Rock Distribution List

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Andy Imboden, Acting Chief
Environmental Review Branch
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and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No. 40-8907
License No. SUA-1475

Enclosure: Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: UNC Church Rock Distribution List

Identical letters sent to: See next page

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