

PDR

WM-26

Jan Bowman
P. O. Box 146
Thoreau, New Mexico 87323
24 October, 1979



Mr. E. A. Trager
U.S. N.R.C.
Division of Waste Management
483-53
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir,

Thank you for holding the Gulf Minerals tailings pond scoping hearing in Grants, New Mexico, on Oct. 23, 1979. It presented the concerned citizen a chance to speak his opinion. I only regret that it degenerated into a free-for-all and I deeply regret that my statements may have led in part to that degeneration.

Gulf has spent millions of dollars drilling for uranium, restoring drilling sites, sinking mining and ore haulage shafts, and building a mill. Gulf has a proven ore body and should be allowed to continue with their intention to proceed to mine, mill, and produce yellowcake. To complete this task, they must have a tailings pond. While I believe wholeheartedly that solution mining is a much safer and economically advisable way to mine uranium, I feel that Gulf's plan to back-fill mined out areas underground is desirable and recommended. The various options shown to those who attended the scoping hearing for the safe storage of tailings seem to me after viewing the area in question to be as reasonable and as safe to the citizenry of San Mateo and adjacent areas as it is technologically and humanly possible to be at this time.

Therefore, I believe that Gulf should be allowed to continue to proceed with their plans to be allowed to store mine tailings in La Polvadera Canyon in such a manner that the NRC deems best.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

FEE EXEMPT

Jan Bowman

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