



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

DES

JUN 9 1980

WM-29

Albert J. Hazle, Director
Radiation and Hazardous Wastes
Control Division
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220

Dear Mr. Hazle:

This refers to your February 19, 1980 letter to G. W. Kerr, U.S. NRC Office of State Programs, requesting that J. E. Rothfleisch of the Waste Management Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch staff review engineering assessments to be submitted by Homestake Mining Company on its Pitch Project.

As you know, the NRC was deeply involved in the preparation of the U.S. Forest Service's Environmental Impact Statement for this project. More specifically, NRC concluded that the Homestake tailings management plan (Site A Alternative 1 as described in the Homestake EIS) would meet the performance objectives developed by NRC and adopted by CHD. In addition, the NRC is currently performing tailings management alternative and radiological evaluations for the Cyprus, Pioneer, and Union Carbide projects in Colorado.

Due to our limited resources for technical assistance to Agreement States, we are unable to participate in the Pitch Project review on the continuing basis that you have requested. It would seem more appropriate for the review to assure that detailed engineering plans conform with the approved tailings management program be conducted at the state level.

We regret not being able to provide the requested assistance; however, we will remain available for telephone consultation with your staff should the need arise.

Sincerely,

Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

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