

PDR

WM-25



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SANTA FE
87503

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

January 29, 1980



John F. Ahearne, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Chairman Ahearne:

I have received your letter dated January 25, 1980 requesting I delay the issuance of the license to the Bokum Resources Corporation for their uranium mill at Marquez, New Mexico.

Since your letter contained no technical objections to the Bokum project, and the Environmental Improvement Division (EID) was unaware of any technical issues that would prevent the issuance of a license, I did not choose to delay issuance of a license. Consequently, a license was issued by the Environmental Improvement Division on Monday, January 28, 1980.

The Environmental Improvement Division has required several conditions requiring specific action by Bokum Resources Corporation prior to the discharge of mill tailings. In addition, the Division's Radiation Protection Regulations state "The terms and conditions of all licenses shall be subject to amendment, revision, or modification or the license may be suspended or revoked by reason of amendment to the Act, or by reason of rules, regulations, and orders issued by the agency."

The Environmental Improvement Division will carefully review the content and recommendations of the assessment the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now has underway. If necessary, additional conditions to the license issued to Bokum Resources Corporation will be added.

Sincerely,

Bruce King

BRUCE KING
Governor

BK:gsg

SEE ENCLPT

8004020159

15710