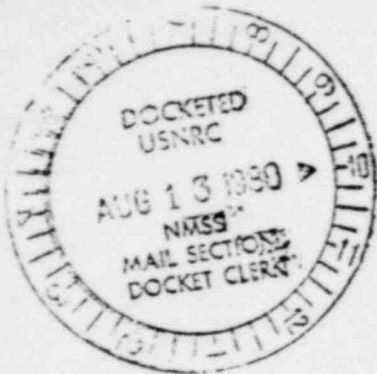


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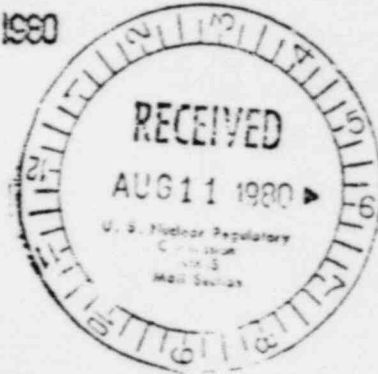
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

JUL 29 1980



Mr. Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Scarano:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement identified as Bison Basin Project, located in Fremont County, Wyoming.

In general, we find that this draft statement was carefully prepared and gives sufficient information on the anticipated construction and operation plans for a uranium mining system that will not only recover and extract the metallic element uranium but will also restore the availability and quality of groundwater through a scientific technological cleanup process. The document describes a number of environmental, economic and related effects of the uranium mining operations and the uncertainties of the project with respect to groundwater contamination and radiological effects on the public. According to the report socioeconomic effects on the labor force and their families and the surrounding population will be minimal.

However, the issues identified in this document do not relate to any impacts in terms of social and psychological effects on the general public living in the geographical area of the project site. We are concerned not only about the physical health problems, but also about anxieties, fears, and additional stress that may be evident if radioactive effluents of the recovery plant may contaminate the air and the water and the people will develop failing health conditions, requiring medical and psychological treatment and bring about considerable expenditures.

Related to this concern, the draft statement does not indicate any existing resources available in the community to address these needs, nor does it include plans the project might take to make these and additional resources available. Specifically, we suggest that the final statement include ways of making available basic social services to residents and in-migrating individuals and families, such as information and referral services, marital and parent-child counseling, health-related services, transportation, housing related and other human services.

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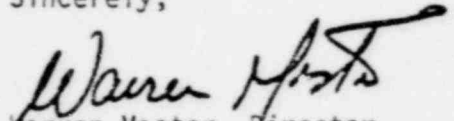
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Comment

We would suggest that the final environmental impact statement include a provision explicitly addressing the need for human service programs for the people living in the vicinity of the Bison Basin Project site. We will appreciate your cooperation in providing us with this information.

If you have any questions about our concerns, please contact Mr. Max Wenk of my staff. Mr. Wenk can be reached on (202) 472-4415.

Sincerely,


Warren Master, Director
Office of Policy Development