

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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August 27, 1980

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Director  
Office of State Programs  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

## UMTRCA GRANT

Dear Sir:

The semi-annual report of activities performed through June 30, 1980 pursuant to the UMTRCA Grant to the State of California NRC Contract No. NRC-06-80-308 is hereby submitted.

As indicated in our initial time schedule, the Department of Health Services was required to advise the California Legislature of the NRC approval of our application for the grant. The UMTRCA program had not been identified in the approved 1979-80 budget and so upon acceptance of the grant a change in the budget was needed. Because of a series of delays, the addition of this program was not approved until mid June, 1980.

The application of resources to the other tasks identified in the time schedule was postponed awaiting both program approval and the associated authority to commit such resources.

A preliminary compatibility review of regulations has been made but development of draft amendments has not started. The preparation of application guides and other guidance documents will follow the development of amendments to regulations, but we will make use of the NRC forms and instructions in the interim period if required.

Authority to start personnel hiring action has just been granted but preliminary recruitment efforts for a qualified junior engineer have been unsuccessful. The Radiologic Health Section has hired three new staff members in materials licensing and so expanded use of existing experienced staff will be developing through October. One staff member received the two weeks training course at Bethesda in April, 1980. A reservation will be requested for one position in the third such session this fall although we have no named candidate assigned as of this report.

There has been no procurement of instruments during this period since none was authorized nor funded in the original grant. Now that we have the NRC recommendations for instrument systems, we will establish a list of needed equipment by October and initiate procurement action.

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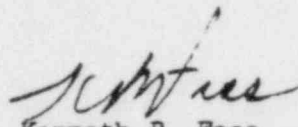
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As result of the above delays, the only expenditure of funds was made to cover the aforementioned training costs of one person for travel and per diem, amounting to \$1,232.00. The official financial report will be furnished by our Accounting Office directly to the NRC Division of Accounting in accordance with reporting instructions.

For your information, current activities of uranium programs in California can be characterized as holding actions. The Martin-Trost Miracle Mine in Kern County had difficulty in maintaining water effluent standards and prior to a public hearing regarding this matter, they ceased operations and stopped shipment of higher grade ores. Plans to concentrate low-grade ore are held in suspense. The Lomex Corporation project for in-situ mining in San Luis Obispo County is still postponed. They have proposed minimum efforts to retain their mining claims by further exploratory drilling. The US Forest Service will conduct an environmental assessment on this proposal within the next few months.

In summary, the development schedule has slipped about five months, personnel recruitment continues, instrument needs are being developed and expanded effort will be devoted to drafting of needed regulations and legislation.

Sincerely,



Kenneth B. Fess  
Senior Health Physicist  
Environmental Radiation Control Unit  
Radiologic Health Section