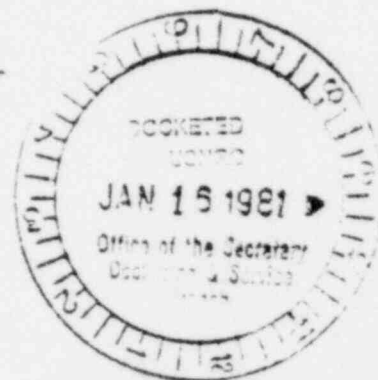


POOR ORIGINAL

3306



DOCKET NUMBER ER-30, 32, 70, 150
PROPOSED RULE (45 FR 70374)
SMELTED ALLOYS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

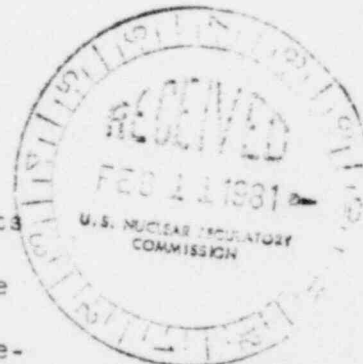
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 9 1981

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements
contained herein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, returning the enclosed corre-
spondence with your answer.



Yours truly,

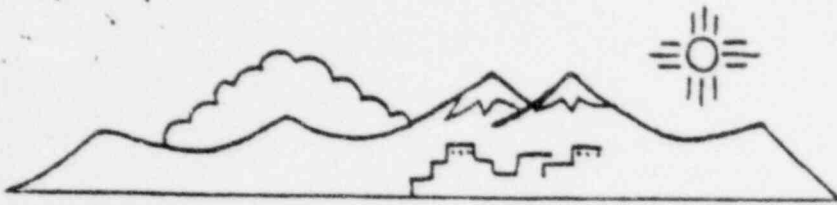
Manuel Lujan, Jr.

Please mark return envelope
ATTN: Peggy

B/102270

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L-4-1 P4-30



Taos Action for Survival Council • P.O. Box 3135 Taos, New Mexico 87571
Clarice Kopecky, Co-ordinator 758-4581

December 18, 1980

Dear Congressman Lujan,

We appreciate meeting with you again on your District visit to Taos. As you will recall from the last time, our group has been active in a range of issues primarily environmental. We strongly believe in public education and participation, and have at times, represented 2000 people in Taos County, for instance in the petition to express public sentiment requesting an impact statement in regard to exploratory drilling for uranium in our national forest. What follows is an outline of some issues with which we are involved. We would like you to be aware of our concerns, and we would like to be in dialogue with you in regard to how you intend to represent our views on these subjects. More detailed information and updates will be forthcoming to your office.

We would also like to reflect a growing political skepticism in our area in regard to the future of mineral and nuclear development. It seems that the corporation and mining interests, who have the money and lobbying power to be most vocal and who are the ones to most benefit in capital gains are the ones who are listened to and responded to favorably. Meanwhile the general public is lacking not only in the money and lobbying areas, but also the serious drawback of lack of information and influence. It is important that you realize that we who must pay the human cost of such development should always be consulted with and our input should be actively invited through public hearings with adequate response time. This applies to the following issues and our request for your attention to these matters.

1. We have requested the Forest Service to monitor the areas of former uranium exploratory drill sites, to report on them, and to get those areas reclaimed as much as is possible. As per the attached response, they are referring us to various State agencies

for follow up. Any assistance you might be in facilitating the initiation of such monitoring and responsible clean-up would be most appreciated.

2. In conjunction with the Sierra Club efforts in regard to the Mining Law of 1872, we submit the attached information with our endorsement and full support. Although we realize this has not come up before Congress yet, we want you to know that we desire appropriate amendments to better protect public interest and to benefit the state monetarily. Environmental Impact Statements should be required and public participation should be encouraged.

3. Anaconda intends to do more drilling in the Copper Hill area of Taos County. We request public hearings and an EIS so that some educated decisions can be made in this regard. We request your support on this.

4. We understand that the BLM is considering coal strip-mining on BLM land around Chaco Canyon. It is very important that this decision be made very carefully and with public input; it is public land.

5. We were told that the new plan for the Mx missile system (the split-base plan, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Utah/Nevada, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Ariz./New Mexico) has passed both houses encompassed within the Military Authorization Bill. This apparently includes the necessity to fence in 25,000 square miles to guarantee security. We would like to know how you voted on it and what the current status is.

6. In the October 22, 1980 issue of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Nuclear Register, it was announced that they intend to recycle nuclear waste from three Federal atomic fuel plants, smelt it, and sell it on the open market to make such items as pots and pans, desks, coins, silverware and automobiles. Also, the pipes, motors and other contaminated metals from three department enrichment centers in Paducah, Ky., Oakridge, Tenn., and Portsmouth, Ohio, are being considered for sale and valued at \$42 million. At present sales are forbidden to firms not licensed by the NRC

to handle these wastes, but the government has requested a lift of this restriction to facilitate sales to unlicensed firms. Opposition was supposed to be registered by December 14. We heard of this quite by accident just yesterday, Dec. 17, and we would like to know why these issues are not made more generally known?

7. Finally, and possibly most important in terms of ultimate risks, is the WIPP issue. We question the basic legality of the authority of the BLM to withdraw public lands for government use. We also specifically request open public hearings be held on this matter. We request that you call, on our behalf, Mr. Phil Beck, at the Santa Fe BLM office, 988-6227 today, Dec. 18, and let him know that some of your constituents in Taos are very concerned.

As a matter of information, on the television program, 60 Minutes, there was a discussion of an accident involving a nuclear waste dump site in Russia. It happened in 1956 and was called the KYSHTYM DISASTER. It was a result of nuclear wastes pumped into the ground which eventually reached critical mass, flashed, and wiped out 1000 square kilometers in Russia, leaving it devoid of all life. A quote from this program is, "A nuclear accident anywhere in the world is a nuclear accident everywhere in the world." We don't want to risk that in our lovely state. We solicit your comments on this crucial, critical matter.

Now that you are aware of these issues and our concerns, we would like to continue keeping our communications open. As we are able to develop current status reports on each issue, we will send copies to your office. We would appreciate it if you would keep us updated on what bills you sponsor or support which have an effect on environment. Could you please send us copies of such bills and issues?

Thank you for your attention and your availability to us, your constituents. We are counting on your participation in the democratic process to carry the message of our organized efforts to the elected body to whom we entrust the care of our towns and our peoples.

Respectfully submitted,
TAOS ACTION FOR SURVIVAL COUNCIL

- Taos News
- cc. Gov Bruce King
- Fred Waltz, atty for TASC
- Sterra Club, Bland Calkin, Regional Director
- Dixon Concerne Citizens
- Albuquerque Citizens Together
- Mt Jay for Alliance
- Citizens Against Radioactive Dumping
- Citizens Against Nuclear Threat
- Black Hills Alliance, South Dakota
- Mexican