

Ms. Judith M. Espinosa, Secretary
 State of New Mexico
 Environment Department
 Harold Runnels Building
 1190 St. Francis Drive
 P.O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

JUL 07 1993

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I am responding to your letter of April 13, 1993, regarding closure of the Uranium Recovery Field Office (URFO) in Denver, Colorado. As you are aware, the President directed all Federal agencies to reduce staffing and as a result the closure of URFO was being contemplated. Your letter provides several reasons for keeping URFO open, and these were considered in our evaluation of the various options to reduce staffing. However, the Commission has decided to close URFO in 1994.

The Commission recognizes and is sensitive to the substantive concerns of the states that are involved in the uranium recovery program and the mining industry, particularly with respect to the need to ensure continued constructive and effective communication and interaction with the NRC. On June 28, 1993, the Commission approved a detailed URFO closure plan that addresses these and related issues. The plan indicates a date of August 1, 1994, for final closure of URFO. The plan also includes formation of an NRC Transition Oversight Team to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Interaction with this group will allow both industry and states an avenue for continued input, as the plan is implemented.

The decision to close URFO was primarily driven by projected resource limitations. However, be assured that NRC's interest in the areas covered by URFO will not be diminished by the closing.

Sincerely, *Original signed by*
 Robert M. Bernero
 Robert M. Bernero, Director
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

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