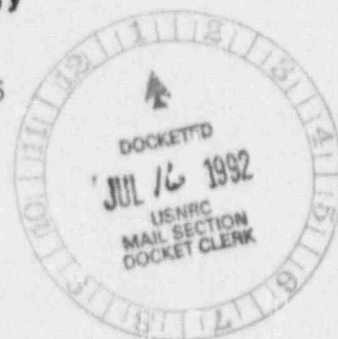




## Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque New Mexico 87115

JUN 23 1992



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Greetings:

Enclosed is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Provision of a Water Supply System at Gunnison, Colorado, (DOE/EA-0529).

In November 1978, Congress enacted Public Law 95-504, the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. The Act authorizes the DOE to enter into cooperative agreements with the affected states and Indian tribes in order to establish assessment and remedial action programs at inactive uranium mill tailings sites, including the Gunnison site. The Act stipulates that the Department will meet the applicable cleanup and disposal standards promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EA was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the environmental impacts of the Department's proposal to provide a permanent water supply for Gunnison area residents affected by groundwater contamination from the Gunnison site. The Department's proposed action, as identified in the EA, is to construct a water supply system for residents and commercial establishments in the affected area to alleviate present and potential health risks.

Also enclosed is a Finding of No Significant Impact in which the Department has determined, based on the analysis in the EA, that construction of a permanent alternate water supply is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Sincerely,

Albert R. Chernoff  
Project Manager  
Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action  
Project Office

2 Enclosures

OFFICIAL DOCKET COPY