

MEMORANDUM

529/7

DATE: 7/28/83

TO: Dr. Jonathan Mann, State Epidemiologist

FROM: Tom Udall, Acting EID Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "TU", written over the name "Tom Udall".

SUBJECT: URANIUM MILL TAILINGS WORKING GROUP

I have attached several pieces of correspondence regarding the Homestake Mining Company for your information.

The following individuals will represent EID on the working group:

1. Maxine Goad, Water Pollution Control Bureau
2. Jere Millard, Radiation Protection Bureau
3. Bill Bennett, District Manager, District I
4. Louie Rose, Acting Chief, Environmental Unit,
Office of General Counsel

Since there are several legal actions taking place on these issues, I think it is important to have a lawyer involved.

TU:c1

Attachments

cc: Maxine Goad
Jere Millard ✓
Bill Bennett
Louie Rose
Robert McNeill
Robert Lovato
Tom Regis

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PDR STPRG ESGNM
PDR

Survey shows no uranium-related cancer

New Mexican

12/21/83

By The Associated Press

An apparent increase in gall bladder disease among men who live near uranium tailings piles in the Grants area is the only significant health disorder uncovered in a recent study.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, state epidemiologist, said the health survey revealed no evidence of increased cancer, high blood pressure, heart disease or other major illnesses among nearby residents.

Mann released partial results of the survey of 200 people who live near the Homestake uranium mill tailings piles near Grants on Thursday. He will present the full results at a public meeting in Grants next Wednesday.

Mann told a news conference in

Santa Fe that the higher incidence of gall bladder disease among men in the study group coincided with fewer cases of skin rash and severe headaches than anticipated.

The study of health effects and water quality also found no significant incidence of arthritis, stroke, kidney disease, neurologic disease, thyroid disease, miscarriage, birth defects or menstrual problems, Mann said Thursday.

Mann said that the only significant finding reported among women in the survey group was fewer skin rashes and more severe headaches than expected.

The study suggests that residents who are not experiencing chronic diarrhea or high blood pressure have

little to fear from the water they drink, he said.

Mann said the survey is significant because major problems were not uncovered, but it would have indicated the need for a more elaborate study if a high level of major illness had been found.

He said the more important phase of the study, to be completed by the end of February, will determine the effects of radiation and air quality on nearby residents.

Mann said the study of radiation in the area will be more helpful because there is much more information available on the effects of radiation than there is on gall bladder disease.

The water quality and health effects study was limited, Mann said,

because the sample of people was small and might not reflect the extent of any medical problems and the team relied on reported health problems rather than confirmed health problems.

He added that cancer often takes longer to show up in a person exposed to radioactivity, and the current residents may not have lived in the area long enough to develop any serious diseases.

Mann will present the full findings of the health team at a public meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Grants City Hall. Mann and members of the working team who conducted the health survey and water analysis will also respond to questions of area residents.

New Mexican

12/29/83

Health survey 'reassuring' for Grants residents

GRANTS (AP) — The state epidemiologist says he finds the results of a health survey of residents who live near Homestake Mining Co.'s uranium mill tailings piles "reassuring."

Dr. Jonathan Mann detailed the results of the survey Wednesday night to about 10 people who turned out for a public meeting on the results, which had been made public earlier this month.

The survey found no evidence of increased cancer, hypertension, heart

disease, arthritis, stroke, kidney disease, neurologic disease, thyroid disease, adverse pregnancy outcome or menstrual problems.

However, it also found that in males, skin rash and severe headache were less prevalent and gall bladder disease "significantly more prevalent among study participants compared to national data."

The studies were conducted, under Mann's direction, under a mandate from the state's Health and Environment Department.

Mann said the small number of people surveyed "limit its ability to detect significant differences between reported health effects in the study population and New Mexico or national national data," he believes

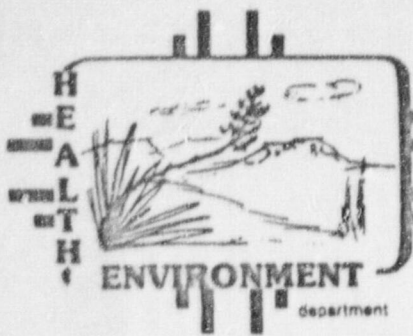
it met its mandate to identify any health effects that might exist among the population near the tailings piles.

Homestake Mining Co., under a stipulated agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, has announced plans to move residents

of subdivisions south of the mill to the Milan water system.

Some of the residents are subdivisions have sued the mining firm, claiming its uranium mill tailings operations have contaminated their ground water and damaged the value of their property.

Mann said the project was done with no additional funds or staff and any further studies must be mandated by the political system.



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DEPUTY SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL EID EMPLOYEES
FROM: IDA ORTIZ, DIRECTOR'S OFFICE *JO*
DATE: DECEMBER 13, 1983
SUBJECT: HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

This Department will again be cooperating with various private agencies in sponsoring a Holiday Food Drive. Governor Toney Anaya has designated December 14 through 21 for this activity.

Please be generous and bring your non-perishable goods to my office. The National Guard will be distributing these goods to needy families. Being the Holiday Season I am counting on you to make this an over-whelming success.

Thank you.