



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SANTA FE

Nov 14 872037 PM '79

SECRETARIAT
HEALTH-ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT

BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

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EIA Dir's Office

November 13, 1979

The Reverend Harry Summers
Executive Secretary
New Mexico Inter-Church Agency
P. O. Box 8036
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

Dear Reverend Summers:

This is in response to your letter of October 22, 1979, in which you enclosed a copy of your October 19, 1979 letter to the Representative of Church World Service in Washington, D. C., regarding your assessment of conditions and need in the Church Rock area.

During the time of your study, the Human Services Department was also in the process of taking action to alleviate the problem and has addressed some of the conditions you mention.

On September 4, 1979, Mr. Ingram requested that the Department of Agriculture designate the Church Rock area in McKinley County as a disaster area so as to provide food stamp benefits to all households experiencing difficulties as a result of the tailings dam spill. Please see copy of Mr. Ingram's letter which is enclosed as Attachment #1. Regretfully, the Department of Agriculture denied this request and so advised Mr. Ingram. Please see copy of USDA's denial which is enclosed as Attachment #2.

On September 21, 1979, Mr. Edward Begay, Chairman of the Church Rock Action Committee in Gallup, made a formal request to Mr. Ingram for emergency issuance of food stamps for the people adversely affected as a result of the spill. Please see copy of Mr. Begay's letter which is enclosed as Attachment #3. This request was forwarded to the Department of Agriculture on October 17, 1979, and on October 25, 1979, a telegram was received from USDA advising that the Department of Human Services could once again apply for emergency stamps if the Department could determine that, in this instance, a quick response is needed to meet a sudden, heavy demand at the food stamp office; that only a short term loss of income is expected; that property repairs and land reclamation will not be lengthy; and that the ongoing program cannot meet the food needs of the affected households.

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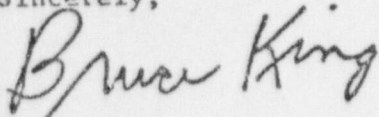
The Reverend Harry Summa
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While we can all agree that there is economic disruption for many households in the Church Rock area, we have been reluctant in resubmitting a second request for declaration of the Church Rock community as a disaster area since we cannot meet the criteria requested by USDA.

With regard to inadequate water supplies and storage tanks, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Dr. George Goldstein, Secretary of Health and Environment, and asking that he look into this matter and communicate directly with you regarding this problem.

I appreciate your taking the time to look into conditions at Church Rock, and hope that the human and social problems are in the process of resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce King".

BRUCE KING
Governor

cc: Dr. George Goldstein, Secretary
Health and Environment Department



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INTER-AGENCY MEMO



TO:		Highway	Natural Resources	Human Services	Health & Env. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crim. Justice	For Internal Use Only To: _____ Logging: Internal _____ Agency _____ Complete _____ Completion Date _____ Response? Y _____ N _____ File # _____
		Agriculture	Comm. & Ind.	Energy & Min.	Transp.	Ed. Fin. & Cul. Af.	
		D.F.A.	Tax. & Revenue	Other			
FROM: <u>Alice Boss</u>		CONTROL LOG. NO. <u>2/4-23</u> <u>95</u>		ASSIGNED TO _____			
DISPOSITION:							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please investigate and prepare a reply for Governor's signature</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> For your attention/information/handling</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><input type="checkbox"/> Please answer, sending a copy of your letter to me</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> For your comment and return</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><input type="checkbox"/> Please see me on this</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> For your files</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><input type="checkbox"/></div><div></div></div>							
SUBJECT: <u>Church Rock spill -</u>							
<u>William H. Lazareth</u>							
DATE REQUEST RECEIVED <u>2/4/0</u>		DATE ASSIGNED <u>2/5/0</u>			ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION <u>2/13/0</u>		
INSTRUCTIONS: _____							
ASSIGNEE COMMENTS: _____							
Letter Attached <input type="checkbox"/>		Assignee Initials			Governor's Office Clearance		
Comments Attached <input type="checkbox"/>		Date			Date		