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## UNC MINING AND MILLING

Division of United Nuclear Corporation  
A **UNC RESOURCES** Company

P.O. Box 3951  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190

4801 Indian School Road, N.E.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110  
Telephone 505 265-4421

September 12, 1979

Ms. Judy Torrence (6AEL)  
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI  
1201 Elm Street  
Dallas, TX 75270

REFERENCE: Administrative Order Docket No. VI-79-139  
in the Matter of United Nuclear Corporation

Dear Ms. Torrence:

In compliance with the Administrative Order in the Matter of United Nuclear Corporation ("UNC"), Docket No. VI-79-139, which directed a preliminary report be prepared on the July 16, 1979 UNC escape of mill process water into an unnamed arroyo to the Rio Puerco, UNC submits herewith the following:

- (1) EPA request: a description of the cause of the discharge. UNC response: an engineering firm retained by UNC, Sergeant, Hauskins & Beckwith, as well as an independent engineering firm, Jacobs Engineering, have analyzed the cause of the breach and the stability and integrity of the existing dam. Their reports are enclosed for your review.
- (2) EPA request: a description of the impacts observed upon the environment. UNC response: UNC Mining and Milling Manager of Environmental Services, Noel Savignac, has prepared a preliminary description of the impacts on the environment.
- (3) EPA request: a listing of remedial actions taken and being taken to prevent future discharges. UNC response: the same engineering firms listed in item (1) above have also prepared reports addressing remedial actions to prevent future failures at NECR dam. These are enclosed.
- (4) EPA request: a complete description of any measures being taken to clean up potentially contaminated areas. UNC response: in cooperation with the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division ("EID"), UNC Mining and Milling has been submitting weekly reports describing cleanup. These are enclosed. Also enclosed please find a request by EID for a cleanup plan, and UNC's response thereto. We also enclose a memorandum on UNC's sampling program.



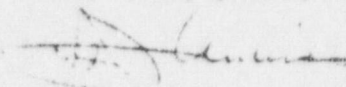
(5) EPA request: a quantitative description of the material discharged including any analytical results available.

UNC response: we enclose an analysis of the material which escaped the tailings dam.

(6) EPA request: any other information UNC feels would be beneficial in assessing this incident. UNC response: UNC believes the above-described material provides a thorough basis to assess the July 16th incident. However, if at any time in your review of the enclosures herewith there arises a need for supplementation or other information, please do not hesitate to call.

Should you have any further questions or need additional information, then please contact John Abbiss or Noel Savignac at P. O. Box 3951, Albuquerque, NM 87190, telephone: 505-265-4421.

Very truly yours,



H. J. Abbiss, P.E.  
Vice President  
Environmental and Safety Services

Enclosures