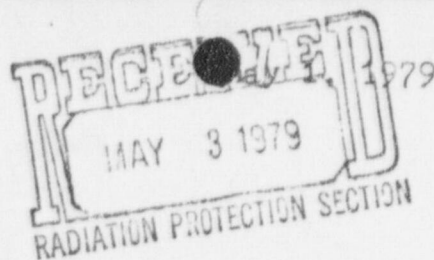


Environmental Improvement Division  
Radiation Protection Section  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501



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5/3/79

Dear Tom Baca,

Considering that significant public interest was expressed in holding hearings on Gulf's application for water discharge from its proposed Mount Taylor uranium mine, and considering the turnout last weekend of persons seeking to worship and protect Mount Taylor, it goes without saying that there is significant public interest in holding public hearings on Gulf's uranium mill proposed in connection with Mount Taylor. As uranium mines require no license, and the companies are generally responsible for doing their own monitoring of air and water discharges, public input into the mill licensing procedure is critical.

According to the EPA in 1975, already the Rio Puerco contains three to seven times the allowable selenium concentration for drinking water. Also, according to Richard Simms, attorney for the State Engineer, "The Rio Grande is fully appropriated, or maybe over-appropriated." Gulf must not be allowed to impair prior, existing and valid water rights, in regard to either quality or quantity.

In truth,

*Richard Phillips*

Richard Hayes Phillips  
c/o CANT  
106 Girard S.E. Room 121-C  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87106