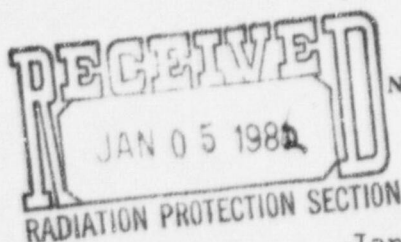


New Mexico Chapter

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

(a non-profit public interest organization)



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January 3, 1981

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Tom Baca, Director
NM Environmental Improvement
Division
P.O. Box 968
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Baca:

Re: SOHIO Western Mining Co. Application
for Renewal of Radioactive Materials
License, and L-Bar Uranium Facility
Groundwater Discharge Plan DP-150

NM PSR is very interested in the renewal application of the above-named uranium mining company for its mill operations at the Cebolleta Land Grant area.

The following are the reason for our interest

1. A seepage problem now exists at SOHIO's existing operations which may cause a public health threat to downstream residents of the area from contaminants released in the milling process.

2. SOHIO's renewal is the first of its kind in New Mexico (after many years of delay) and has potential precedent-setting aspects which we would like to see benefit the nearby community in terms of health protection and environmental integrity.

3. A controversy now exists over new regulations promulgated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which may affect the quality of regulation over New Mexico uranium mill operations and hence provide less protection to nearby residents and future generations.

In light of the above, we formally request that a hearing be held on both the application and the discharge plan of SOHIO L-Bar's operation. We would like to be part of the discussion as well as

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9803090158 810103
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be able to cross-examine witnesses and present written and oral testimony on behalf of our organization and its concerns.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Straight

Michael Straight, MD
President