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Robert A. Malone Director, Environmental Affairs RECEIVED
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EID DIT'S Office

Kennucott

February 15, 1984

Mr. Steven Asher, Director Environmental Improvement Division State of New Mexico P. O. Box 968 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968 DECTE 17 1984

RADIATION PROTECTION BUREAU

Dear Mr. Asher:

In response to your letter to Mr. Joklik regarding the state implementation of the EPA standards for uranium and thorium mill tailings, Kennecott does anticipate difficulties in the event that the EID follows the NRC interpretation of immediate implementation of the EPA standards. The response to that NRC interpretation as provided in your letter was addressed by the New Mexico Mining Association Uranium Environmental Subcommittee in comments which were sent to you in January. Kennecott is a member of that subcommittee. We agree with the Association's position and response in its comments and have no additional comments at this point in time.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your alert of EIL's responsibilities for the new EPA standards.

Very truly yours,

-17. Mhy

/mf