

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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January 18, 1982

Mr. Thomas Merlan
State Planning Division
Historic Preservation Bureau
126 East De Vargas
Santa Fe, NM 87501

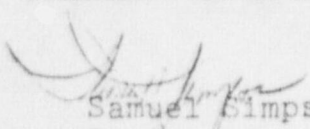
Dear Mr. Merlan:

The Uranium Licensing Section, Environmental Improvement Division, is currently processing an application from Mobil Oil Corporation for a Radioactive Material License involving a commercial In-situ leaching operation at their Southtrend Development Area, Crownpoint, N.M.

The original application was submitted in November 1980 but was held in abeyance by Mobil, revised and resubmitted during November 1981. In our initial review process, Mobil provided correspondence from the National Park Service (NPS), representing the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which provided clearances for the project as relates to certain sections of the development area. The entire project is located on Navajo Indian Allocated Land.

Mobil has elected to take the approach of obtaining clearances from the NPS for the first sections of the development complex, clearances will be acquired further downstream for sections to be mined later in the life of the project. Complete project development time frame is proposed for twenty-seven years (1982 - 2009).

We would appreciate if you would review the NPS correspondence and provide us your opinion on the archaeological and historical site protection program. Your expertise in these matters is valued and would assist in our evaluation efforts pertaining to this project.


Samuel Simpson
Environmental Scientist
Project Manager

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