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STATE OF COLORADO



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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

406 STATE SERVICES BUILDING
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Agricultural Commission

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November 9, 1979

Mr. M. E. Krug
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Waste Management
Mail Stop 483-SS
Washington, D. C. 20555



Dear Mr. Krug:

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the scoping process for the DEIS on the Cyprus Mines' Uranium Operation.

Enclosed you will find the guidelines which our agency feels should be used in order to determine the impacts of major actions upon the agricultural sector within the state. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Rubingh

Jim Rubingh
Resource Analyst

JR:ew
Enc.



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GUIDELINES FOR ANALYZING AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED MAJOR PROJECTS

I. IMPACTS UPON AGRICULTURAL LANDS

- A. Locate agricultural lands affected by the proposed project on an appropriate map. In particular, the following should be identified separately:
 1. prime farmland;
 2. unique farmland (such as orchards, seed-producing areas, etc.);
 3. other irrigated land;
 4. noncropland with prime cropland potential;
 5. critical livestock areas (feedlots, lambing areas, winter range, stock-drive trails, etc.).
- B. Superimpose the proposed project location and facilities of the proposed project upon the map(s) developed in A.
- C. Summarize in tabular form the direct land requirements and impacts of the proposed project for the agricultural land categories listed in A.
- D. Describe the indirect effects of the proposed action upon agricultural land, using both maps and tables, including:
 1. indirect effects caused by industrial and commercial development induced by the proposed project;
 2. indirect effects caused by residential requirements of increased population induced by the proposed project.
- E. Include land use maps showing land uses within the area once the project is completed and the land is reclaimed.
- F. Describe the likelihood and severity of soil erosion and possible subsidence caused by direct and indirect effects of the proposed project.
- G. Describe the expected changes in the relationship between agricultural land and air quality that are induced by the proposed project, including:
 1. the effects of air quality changes upon agricultural land;

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2. the effects of removing or altering agricultural land upon air quality.

II. IMPACTS UPON IRRIGATION

- A. Describe the direct project water requirements and expected sources of project water, including expected amounts of project water to come from irrigation.
- B. Describe the water requirements of additional industrial, commercial, and residential activity induced by the proposed action, identifying sources to meet this additional demand for water, including expected amounts to come from irrigation.
- C. Describe the agricultural impacts of converting irrigation water to meet these direct and indirect demands for additional water induced by the proposed action.
- D. If the proposed action will result in converting more than 3,000 acre-feet of irrigation water to a nonagricultural use, investigate whether conventional irrigation practices would have to be modified in order to maintain current production levels. Discuss the technical feasibility of making such changes in irrigation practices, and estimate the costs to agricultural producers to make such changes.

III. IMPACTS UPON AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

- A. Describe the effects of the proposed project upon the availability of agricultural labor, both year round and seasonal, particularly if the project will increase the overall economic affluence of the surrounding area.
- B. Describe the effects of the proposed project upon cultivation practices, including spraying and the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- C. Describe the direct and indirect effects of the proposed project upon the farm supply sector, and the agricultural marketing, processing and distribution sectors.

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sector.

- E. Describe the effects of the proposed project upon the transportation and movement of livestock, produce, and farm equipment.
- F. Describe the effect of the proposed action upon agricultural land values, and the effects of changed land values upon agricultural activity.
- G. Describe the effects of the proposed action upon attitudes of the general population in the surrounding area toward agriculture as a vocation.

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