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The Honorable Joseph Hendric

September 19, 1979

2. A description of any monitoring or surveillance activities being conducted by NRC of the water, air or food chain in the area and any other technical assistance being provided to the State of New Mexico.

3. An explanation of the relationship between NRC standards for any hazardous substances involved in possible public health or environmental impacts of the accident.

4. An overview of the regulatory relationships between NRC, the State of New Mexico and the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to the Church Rock tailings disposal site, and a summary of the extent of cooperation among these groups, or any regulatory gaps which might exist.

5. A description of activities planned or under way by the Commission to assess other tailings containment structures licensed or under construction for possible similar problems.

The hearing will take place at 9:45 a.m. in Room 1324 Longworth Building. I would appreciate receiving at Room 1327 Longworth Building by October 5 a minimum of 5 advance copies of your prepared testimony. Please provide for the Subcommittee 50 copies of your testimony on the morning of the hearing.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

MORRIS K. UDALL
Chairman

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 17, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne

FROM: Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: UDALL COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON CHURCH ROCK

We have been informed by the staff of the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment of the Subcommittee's intention to hold hearings on the July 16 tailings impoundment failure at United Nuclear's Church Rock, New Mexico, facility. NRC representatives have been invited to testify at the hearing which will begin at 9:45 A.M. October 9, in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

The Subcommittee staff has requested that the NRC prepare short, written testimony which includes the following:

- > (1) A description of the accident
(2) The NRC's response to the incident, including a description on technical support provided to New Mexico
(3) The NRC's radiological assessment of the release
(4) A description of any NRC standards, licensing criteria, or inspection procedures which would have prevented or mitigated the consequence of the accident.

The EDO will coordinate the testimony, submitting a first draft for Commission review by COB September 28. The EDO will also select someone to give testimony in the event the Commissioners cannot appear.

Representatives of the EPA, State of New Mexico, United Nuclear, and the Navajo Tribe have also been invited to testify.

cc: OGC
OPE
EDO
Secy
ACRS (Dave Johnson)

DUPLICATE