



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

DEC 18 1992

Docket No. 40-8968

Ernest Becenti, Jr., President
Navajo Elected Officials -
Puerco River Valley
Church Rock Chapter
P.O. Box 549
Church Rock, New Mexico 87311

Dear Mr. Becenti:

We are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Church Rock/Crownpoint uranium project proposed by Hydro Resources, Inc. The EIS is being completed in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition, the Navajo Nation tribal government is being afforded an opportunity to be a cooperating agency in our review.

On September 24, 1992, the NRC chaired scoping meetings, in Window Rock, Arizona, and Crownpoint, New Mexico, to identify topics to be addressed in the EIS. The meetings were scheduled in consultation with the BIA, and we felt these locations provided the most convenient access by interested citizens as well as Navajo officials.

We have received and reviewed the transcripts of the meetings. Our review indicates that a number of technical issues were raised and discussed in the meetings. These technical issues will be addressed as we prepare the EIS. Because similar topics were raised repeatedly at each meeting, we have determined that all topics of concern were identified satisfying the primary purpose of the scoping meetings. However, one individual inquired why a meeting had not been scheduled for the Church Rock area.

We would appreciate your opinion on the need for another public scoping meeting in the Church Rock area. As with the previous meetings, the intent of such a meeting would be to solicit from the public additional topics to be addressed in the EIS. The meeting, however, would not be to discuss the merits or impacts of the project. If you feel residents in your area did not have ample opportunity to present topics for consideration, we will work with the BIA and BLM to schedule an additional meeting. On the other hand, if you feel that the previous meetings fulfilled the intent of providing a forum to discuss topics for consideration in the EIS, we will move forward without such a meeting. In any event, the Navajo Nation will have ample opportunity to comment not only on the issues, but also on their resolutions. After publication of the Draft EIS, comments will be received and additional public meetings will be scheduled if necessary.

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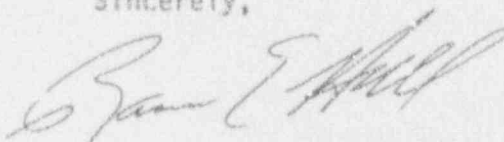
Ernest Becenti, Jr.

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If you have any questions or comments on these matters, please call
Mr. Joel Grimm at (303) 231-5806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ramon E. Hall", written in a cursive style.

Ramon E. Hall
Director

cc:

D. Sitzler, BLM

G. Farris, BIA

B. Garcia, RCPD, NM

E. Montoya, NMED

Ernest Becenti, Jr.

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bcc:

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PDR/DCS

URFO r/f

LJCallan, RIV

LLUR Branch, LLWM, 5E2

RVirgilio, OSP, 3D23

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JPGrimm/lv <i>lv</i>	EFHawkins	REHall	<i>O. - 1 State Program</i>
12/17/92	12/17/92	12/18/92	<i>lv</i>

*Coordinated with J.
Bill Brown
SA*