



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 12, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Peter O’Konski, Deputy Director
Office of Legacy Management
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585
peter.okonski@hq.doe.gov

John Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material and Safeguards
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
john.lubinski@nrc.gov

Re: Northeast Church Rock Mine Site – United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site
United Nuclear Corporation License Amendment Request
Interagency Meeting on March 17, 2021 – Follow-up and Next Steps

Dear Mr. O’Konski and Mr. Lubinski:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Regions 6 and 9, the Office of Mountains, Deserts and Plains and the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (collectively “EPA”) greatly appreciated all of the work that you and your staffs invested in preparing for our 2nd high-level interagency meeting on March 17, 2021 to discuss the above-referenced United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) License Amendment Request (LAR), currently pending before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The purpose of this letter is to confirm our mutual understandings and agreed-upon next steps following that meeting.

Specifically, the agencies agreed to work together to address the concerns and recommendations that Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management (DOE LM) shared during the meeting, some of which relate to the LAR and most of which relate to the long-term management of the UNC Mill Site. To assist with this, DOE LM will provide follow-up correspondence summarizing these concerns and recommendations. We also agreed that DOE LM and EPA will continue to assist NRC by providing any needed support during the ongoing public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, including any appropriate assistance with addressing concerns raised by the Navajo Nation, nearby communities and other stakeholders. Finally, we agreed to continue our ongoing collaboration and to schedule a third high-level meeting of our agencies after the May 27, 2021 close of the public comment period on NRC’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement, perhaps in July.

I invite you to contact me at manzanilla.enrique@epa.gov or 415-972-3843 or Will Duncan at Duncan.will@epa.gov or 415-972-3412 with any questions, concerns or suggestions. We appreciate your investment in developing a robust collaborative relationship among our agencies to ensure protection of human health and the environment on and near the Navajo Nation.

Sincerely,

Enrique Manzanilla
Director, Superfund and Emergency Management Division
EPA Region 9

cc: (by email)
Wren Stenger, EPA R6 SEMD
Shahid Mahmud, EPA HQ OMDP
Dana Stalcup, EPA HQ OSRTI