

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Dylan Fuge**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Albert Chang, Director**  
Mining and Minerals Division



February 5, 2024

Lance Hauer, P.E.  
Legacy Site Team Leader – Environmental Remediation  
General Electric Company  
1 River Road  
Schenectady, NY 12345-6000

**RE: Comments on *Supplemental Characterization Work Plan*, United Nuclear Corporation/GE, Section 27 Mine, McKinley County, New Mexico, Permit Tracking No. MK005RE**

Dear Mr. Hauer,

The Mining and Minerals Division (“MMD”) has received and reviewed the *Supplemental Characterization Work Plan* (“Work Plan”) dated October 31, 2023.

MMD and NMED have the following comments regarding the Work Plan. Please find MMD’s comments below and NMED’s comments in the attached letter.

MMD Comments

1. Please explain what you mean in the following statement found in Section 1.2. It seems like UNC is saying that they won’t be able to clean up the site to the 5/15 pCi/g level required by the Joint Guidance, although later in the document it says that the Joint Guidance will be followed based off of background readings.

*“Based on the widespread impacts of windblown tailings from the Phillips Mill (DOE, 1996) and the fact that DOE cleaned surface areas to a standard of 6.2 pCi/g, UNC is not able to characterize potential impacts from the Site to background levels as recommended by the Joint Cleanup Guidance (MMD and NMED, 2016). UNC intends to characterize surface impacts to the RAL described above.”*

2. MMD would like to confirm that the gamma survey data in Figure 2 is post reclamation at the time?
3. Section 2.4 mentions differentiating between tailing and waste rock. If material with the tailing signature is found, how will clean-up of the material be dealt with in coordination with DOE?
4. Please provide a map that shows the location of the proposed borrow area.

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5. MMD recommends that UNC coordinate with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish when developing and implementing ecological surveys related to wildlife.
6. The Supplemental Characterization Work Plan does not mention evaluation of radon flux in relation to the future repository. Will this be included in the upcoming Supplemental Closeout Plan?
7. Please provide a timeline for anticipated start and completion of the Supplemental Characterization work and report. Also please provide MMD with a tentative date for Supplemental Closeout Plan submittal.
8. Please coordinate with the USEPA Region 6 to ensure that no data gap occurs between characterization work that is being done for the EPA and this Permit.

Please contact MMD with any questions or concerns and to set up a follow-up meeting regarding UNC's response to these comments at (505) 467-9589 or by email at [clinton.chisler@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:clinton.chisler@emnrd.nm.gov).

Sincerely,



Clint Chisler  
Permit Lead

Enclosures: NMED Comments

cc: DJ Ennis, MMD  
Anne Maurer, NMED

Mine File (MK005RE)