

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

---

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Erin Taylor**  
Acting Cabinet Secretary

**Ben Shelton**  
Deputy Secretary

**Drew Roybal-Chavez**  
Deputy Director  
Mining and Minerals Division



March 9, 2026

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

**RE: Comments on *St. Anthony Mine Site Closure-Closeout Plan (CCOP), 90% Design Report, United Nuclear Corporation/GE, St. Anthony Mine, Cibola County, New Mexico, Permit Tracking No. MK006RE, dated September 30, 2025***

Dear Mr. Hauer,

The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) received the *St. Anthony Mine Site Closure-Closeout Plan (CCOP), 90% Design Report, United Nuclear Corporation/GE, St. Anthony Mine, Cibola County, New Mexico, Permit Tracking No. MK006RE, dated September 30, 2025*, and has the following additional comments.

Comments

1. Comment 1: The area addressed under the 2022 Supplemental Radiological Characterization south of Pit 1 seems to have some elevated areas of contamination that need to be addressed, however the 90% CCOP mentions that this area will be used for borrowing soil. Figure 4-1 of the 2022 Characterization Area does not seem to match up with Drawing 28 regarding this statement. Additionally, clean-up work may be necessary in this region. Please clarify.
2. Comment 3: Provide a PMLU specific map as requested in this comment previously, i.e. a map showing the proposed PMLU of each area of the St. Anthony permit area including reclaimed units, piles, pits, borrow areas, etc.
3. Comment 12b: Confirm that a design is in place for berms at the toe of waste rock pile reclamation adjacent to Meyer Draw or justify the lack thereof. The design as presented seems to show toe berms for Pile 4 but not Pile 3.
4. Comment 12c: Provide information regarding the magnitude storm event that the Pit 1 Diversion Channels are designed to accommodate.
5. Comment 13b, c: Provide cover detail drawings for the Regraded In-Place Piles similar to what was provided for Pits 1 and 2 in Figures 6-3 and 6-4 respectively.

RE: Comments on *St. Anthony Mine Site Closure-Closeout Plan (CCOP), 90% Design Report*, United Nuclear Corporation/GE, St. Anthony Mine, Cibola County, New Mexico, Permit Tracking No. MK006RE, dated September 30, 2025

March 9, 2026

Page 2

6. Comment A5: The percent addition and size of gravel used in cover systems will need to be provided to MMD for approval through the Construction Quality Assurance Plan (CQAP) prior to reclamation construction beginning. Furthermore, will the cover detail 18/35 (Soil Cover with Gravel) also be applied to the lower slopes of Pile 3 reclamation?

#### Additional Comments

7. Prior to implementation of reclamation activities, MMD will require a Construction Quality Assurance Plan (CQAP) to be submitted to MMD for review at least 180 days prior to construction commencing for each unit. This will be a permit condition.
8. Please submit a Financial Assurance (FA) estimate for review.
9. What is the lifespan of the STPP application and what monitoring will occur after application?
10. Appendix H: For Zone 3 revegetation area in Pit 1, MMD recommends Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*, pole planting.
11. Figure 9: Please explain why the “underground shaft uranium mine” area will not require additional cover once contaminated soils are removed.
12. In support of comments made by NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, MMD is requesting additional details on how Pile 4 reclamation will tie into the East Tributary Channel aka “Arroyo del Valle”. Please provide cover details of how Pile 3 will be tied into Arroyo del Valle along its full length.
13. Appendix H and Revegetation plans: The soil material balance, soil excavation plans and designs of covers adopted for this closure operation do not account for the minimum depth of baseline soils that are suitable for revegetation. MMD encourages GE/Stantec to have field technical support during the soil conservation operation to ensure that soils that are best suited for revegetation are delineated from others and not mixed with deeper materials.

Additionally, please see attached comments from the New Mexico Environment Dept. (NMED) and New Mexico Dept. of Wildlife (NMDW). Please contact Abimbola Ojekanmi from MMD with any questions or concerns at (505) 490-0726 or by email at [abimbola.ojekanmi@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:abimbola.ojekanmi@emnrd.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Abimbola Ojekanmi*

Abimbola Ojekanmi, PhD  
Uranium Reclamation Specialist  
Mining Act Reclamation Program

cc: Clint Chisler, MMD  
David J Ennis, MMD Program Manager  
Amber Rheubottom, NMED

RE: Comments on *St. Anthony Mine Site Closure-Closeout Plan (CCOP), 90% Design Report*,  
United Nuclear Corporation/GE, St. Anthony Mine, Cibola County, New Mexico, Permit  
Tracking No. MK006RE, dated September 30, 2025

March 9, 2026

Page 2

Attachments: NMED Groundwater Comments, dated March 6, 2026  
NMED Surface Water Comments, dated December 2, 2025  
NMDW Comments, dated January 13, 2026

Mine File (MK006RE)



Electronic Transmission

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 6, 2026

To: David Ennis, Program Manager, Mining Act Reclamation Program

CC: Abimbola Ojekanmi, Site Lead, Mining Act Reclamation Program

Through: Amber Rheubottom, Mining Act Team Leader, Mining Environmental Compliance Section (MECS)

From: Alan Klatt & Eliza Martinez, Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)  
Sufi Mustafa, Air Quality Bureau (AQB)

Subject: **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Comments, St Anthony Uranium Mine, 90% Closure Closeout Plan, Mining Act Permit No. CI002RE**

---

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received correspondence from the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) on October 9, 2025 requesting that NMED review and provide comments on the above-referenced MMD permitting action. Pursuant to the Mining Act, the operation is a regular existing mine. MMD requested comments on the application within 60 days of receipt of the request for comments.

**Background**

United Nuclear Corporation is providing a 90% Closure Closeout Plan for the St Anthony mine.

**Air Quality Bureau**

The AQB does not have any comments.

**Surface Water Quality Bureau**

The SWQB comments are attached.

**Mining Environmental Compliance Section**

MECS has the following comments:

1. Section 2.3 and 2.4 – Missing from the discussion is information on returning to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to amend the final order and add additional

Alternative Abatement Standards (AAS) which has been agreed to as part of the Stage 2 Abatement Plan Modification correspondence. MECS provides additional discussion below.

2. Section 5.5.2 – Future monitoring will also need to ensure compliance with AASs. MECS will work with UNC to develop a post-closure monitoring plan once site activities on the ground have begun.

3. Section 6.2.1 Pit Backfill Volumes – Please ensure temporary stockpile of engineered fill in the bottom of Pit 1 intended for use as clean cover is adequately segregated from impacted material in the bottom of Pit 1.

4. Section 6.3.6.2 STPP Application – NMED request review and approval of the analytical results and plan for the STPP application prior to implementation to ensure it is in accordance with the pilot results and New Mexico regulations.

5. Section 6.4.3 Pile Slope Stability - *“The selected minimum FOS values for comparison used for these analyses are 1.3 for static, 1.0 for pseudo-static conditions, and 1.1 for shallow bench-scale failure....The stability models analyzed met the target factor of safety criteria for long-term static, pseudo-static, and static shallow bench failure modes”* Is the 1.3 static in the first sentence the target factor of safety for long-term static?

6. Section 6.6.4 Radon Flux – Standards for the site need to meet the New Mexico Joint Guidance, not federal standards.

7. Section 7 Schedule – MECS directs UNC to submit the necessary documents for AAS addition and changing the final order with the WQCC as soon as possible. MECS will work on these items while UNC is addressing additional concerns from the agencies. MECS will approve the Stage 2 modification and submit an Environmental Determination to EMNRD, following the completion of those two processes. However, these tasks shall not impede the addressing of and resolution of comments from all regulatory agencies and beginning construction. If EMNRD requires an Environmental Determination to proceed with their process, NMED will provide a conditional approval when 1) existing concerns have been adequately addressed and 2) documents for the AAS addition and changing the final order have been received.

#### **NMED Summary Comment**

NMED has determined additional protection measures are needed for the proposed activities to be protective of the environment.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber Rheubottom at (505) 660-2379.

cc: Joseph Fox, Program Manager, NMED-MECS  
Shelly Lemon, Bureau Chief, NMED-SWQB  
Cindy Hollenberg, Bureau Chief, NMED-AQB  
Clint Chisler, Manager, EMNRD



## Environment Department Internal Memorandum

DATE: December 2, 2025

TO: Amber Rheubottom, Mining Environmental Compliance Section, Ground Water Quality Bureau

FROM: Alan Klatt, Watershed Protection Section, Surface Water Quality Bureau

SUBJECT: **Request for Comments, St. Anthony Mine, 90% Closure/Closeout Plan, United Nuclear Corporation, St. Anthony Mine, Cibola County, New Mexico Mining Act Permit No. MK006RE**

The New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau (NMED SWQB) reviewed United Nuclear Corporation's (UNC's) 90% Closure Closeout Plan (CCP) for the St. Anthony Uranium Mine located in Cibola County, New Mexico. The SWQB most recently provided several rounds of comments on the 2022 30% CCP regarding the design storm, setback distance, hydraulic stabilization, and long-term water quality monitoring. The 90% CCP increases the design storm from the 100-year storm to the 500-year storm which the SWQB supports; However, the 90% CCP does not demonstrate that a zero-setback distance between the waste rock piles and Arroyo del Valle will be protective of State surface water quality standards. Furthermore, the 90% CCP does not demonstrate that concrete grade control structures and rock rip-rap will provide long-term protection for Arroyo del Valle as part of a self-sustaining ecosystem. Appendix F.2-0 of the 90% CCP explains that Stantec Consulting Inc. selected a narrow riparian corridor for Arroyo del Valle because less material would have to be moved, the ground disturbance would be kept within the permit boundary lessening environmental health and safety impacts, and less greenhouse gases would be emitted. While minimizing the ground disturbance is an important consideration, leaving waste rock material in close proximity to Arroyo del Valle creates a greater long-term environmental risk than moving the material to a safer location away from Arroyo del Valle.

### SWQB Comment #1

Retain the 2006 Closeout Plan's regrade requirement that states, "Material piles will be set back 50 feet from the edge of the natural channels." Appendix F of the 90% CCP says, "From the arroyo edges, the pile will be sloped approximately at a design grade of 20 percent". A zero-setback distance does not adequately protect water quality. The 2007 Materials Characterization Report's Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (included as Appendix B.1 of the 90% CCP) describes "potential constituents of concern during site closure for protection of surface water or groundwater may include gross alpha, radium-226 and possibly aluminum in limited areas of the Site." A setback distance is necessary to reduce the potential for contaminants to leach into Arroyo del Valle. A setback distance is also necessary to protect Arroyo del Valle from the waste rock piles should the engineering controls fail and Arroyo del Valle meanders towards the waste rock piles to regain sinuosity that was reduced as a result of mining activities.

### SWQB Comment #2

If it is not economically feasible to restore Arroyo del Valle to a self-sustaining ecosystem which does not rely on engineering controls, a long-term contingency plan to fund, monitor, repair, and adapt the engineering controls in perpetuity must be developed as an appropriate measure to ensure the waste unit will meet surface water standards following closure (19.10.5.506.J.3 & 19.10.5.506.J.5 NMAC). When the rip-rap or concrete structures fail or deteriorate, the waste rock pile materials will be at a significant risk of being eroded into Arroyo del Valle, impacting water quality. Section 6.2.3 of the 90% CCP identifies impacted material from the waste unit is currently above the Soil Action Level and will need to be excavated and removed from the

arroyo. Arroyo water quality data from 2004, submitted by INTERA as part of the 2006 Closeout Plan, shows uranium, radium 226, and gross alpha concentrations increasing downstream of the mine. Therefore, the engineering controls must be maintained indefinitely to prevent additional waste material from impacting the arroyo and water quality. The introduction to Appendix I Monitoring and Maintenance Plan of the 90% CCP says that monitoring will be required until bond release or up to 12 years, and monitoring and maintenance beyond this time frame would be addressed in future revisions of this plan.

SWQB Comment #3

Include a surface water quality monitoring plan in Section 7.4 (Post-Closure Requirements) for Arroyo del Valle. Section 7.4.1 (Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting) includes groundwater quality monitoring but does not include surface water quality monitoring. The surface water quality monitoring plan should include a minimum of four seasonally-distributed sampling events and include sampling above and below the St. Anthony Mine following reclamation.

GOVERNOR  
Michelle Lujan Grisham



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY  
TO THE COMMISSION  
Michael B. Sloane

## STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507  
Tel: (505) 476-8000 | Fax: (505) 476-8180  
For information call: (888) 248-6866

<https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov>

STATE GAME COMMISSION

RICHARD STUMP  
Chair  
Santa Fe

FERNANDO CLEMENTE, JR.  
Sunland Park

GREGG FULFER  
Jal

TIRZIO J. LOPEZ  
Cebolla

DR. CHRISTOPHER C. WITT  
Albuquerque

13 January 2026

Abimbola Ojekanmi, Uranium Reclamation Coordinator  
Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)  
Mining Act Reclamation Program  
1220 South St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**RE: St. Anthony Mine 90% Closure Closeout Plan, Cibola County, New Mexico, Permit No. MK006RE; NMDGF No. NMERT-5207.**

Dear Mr. Ojekanmi:

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the above referenced 90% Closure Closeout Plan (CCOP). On behalf of United Nuclear Corporation (UNC), Stantec prepared and submitted a CCOP, 90% Design Report to MMD for reclamation of the St. Anthony Mine. The 90% CCOP is an update to the 30% CCOP submitted in October 2022.

The CCOP has adequately addressed the Department's concerns regarding the potential long-term uncertainties pertaining to the water quality of future expressed water in Pit 1 by incorporating the Department's fencing recommendations in the letter dated 23 February 2023 (NMERT-2239). The Department also appreciates that UNC included a grading design for the reclaimed Lobo Tract East Borrow Area that includes a low-lying section designed to naturally collect surface water that will provide an alternate wildlife water source away from the fenced Pit 1 area.

The Department generally concurs with the recommended reclamation seed mixes in Tables 3 and 4 in Appendix H: Revegetation Plan. However, in the upland alternative species list, the forb small burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*) is not a native species. The Department recommends substituting either white prairie clover (*Dalea candida*) or Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) as an alternate native forb species. When possible, the Department recommends using seeds that are sourced from the same region and habitat type as the reclamation site and suggests including seeds from a region that represents potential future climatic conditions at the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the CCOP. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, at (505) 270-6612 or [ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

Virginia Seamster, Ph.D.  
Assistant Chief for Technical Guidance  
Wildlife Management Division, Ecological and Environmental Planning Section

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office