

Comment TG-07

Red Valley Chapter
Post Office Box 304
Red Valley, Arizona 86544
Phone: 928-653-5800

Mr. Rege Leach, Civil Engineer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
835 East Second Avenue Suite 300
Durango, Colorado 81301-5475

June 22, 2007

Dear Mr. Leach:

I am writing to advise you that the Red Valley Chapter has serious concerns about the proposed Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Planning Report and draft Environment Impact Statement for the San Juan River Lateral would divert water south along U. S. Highway 491 to Chapter communities in the Navajo Nation and the City of Gallup, because of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Settlement's adverse effect on the ability to resolve the Red Valley Chapter's water claims in the San Juan River Lateral will begin at the San Juan River near Shiprock south along Highway 491 to the Window Rock, Arizona area and the City of Gallup area.

The Red Valley Chapter as that in settling the pressing problems associated with the Massive claims of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, you not lose sight of the critical need to address the claims of the Red Valley Chapter in the mainstream San Juan River. Working together, we are confident that the Red Valley Chapter's water claims can be crafted in way that will not foreclose the possibility of a fair resolution of the Navajo-Gallup water supply project in the future.

Let me explain by saying that the Navajo Nation greatly appreciates the tremendous effect which Navajo Nation Chapters have devoted to addressing the difficult water issues to confront the permanent homeland for the Navajo people. Nothing is more important to the welfare of the Navajo Nation than developing a reliable long-term Navajo-Gallup Water supply project Planning Report and draft Environmental Impact Statement to meet the needs of the State of New Mexico and Navajo Nation citizens. That cannot be done while the water rights of the Red Valley Chapter in the State of the New Mexico nor Navajo Nation remain uncertain and cloud the rights of other water users in the State and Navajo Nation.

At this point in time the Red Valley Chapter demanding to divert water tap delivery from the "Shiprock water Project Tank", Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project pipe line to Red Valley Chapter region, through sublaterals. The Red Valley chapter knows that the State and Navajo Nation Water Rights Commissioners have worked hard to find fair and equitable solutions to these difficult problems.

We hope to work with you to find a way to address the issues which we raise in this letter, as well as to find a solution to the difficult issues the Red Valley Chapter region.

JUN 28 2007

1

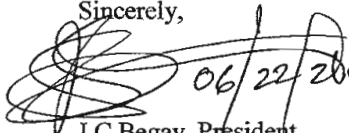
Comment TG-07 – continued

As you all aware, the need for quality of the drinking water is a great demanding in the North-Eastern region of the state of the New Mexico; (A.) Provide a long-term, reliable water supply to Red Valley Chapter region, and (B.) More than 40% of Navajo households still haul water to meet daily needs, and (C.) Submit an oral and written report to the Red Valley Chapter region on the findings with regard to the impact of past Uranium Mining activities on the quality of the drinking water, and (D.) Analyze drinking water well samples for contaminates drinking water in the Red Valley Chapter region, and (E) see attached, Exhibit A & B Resolutions and documents."C"

As Red Valley Chapter President, I will ask for your expertise knowledge, honesty, trust and cooperation. Hence, as a community leader and a chapter membership of Red Valley Chapter, Navajo Nation, we shall continue to pursue and reach of the balanced excellence that our Navajo People and leaders have historically strive for traditionally and spiritually.

I would appreciate any information you could provide at this early stage in our plan. Again, ahe'hee and thank you.

Sincerely,



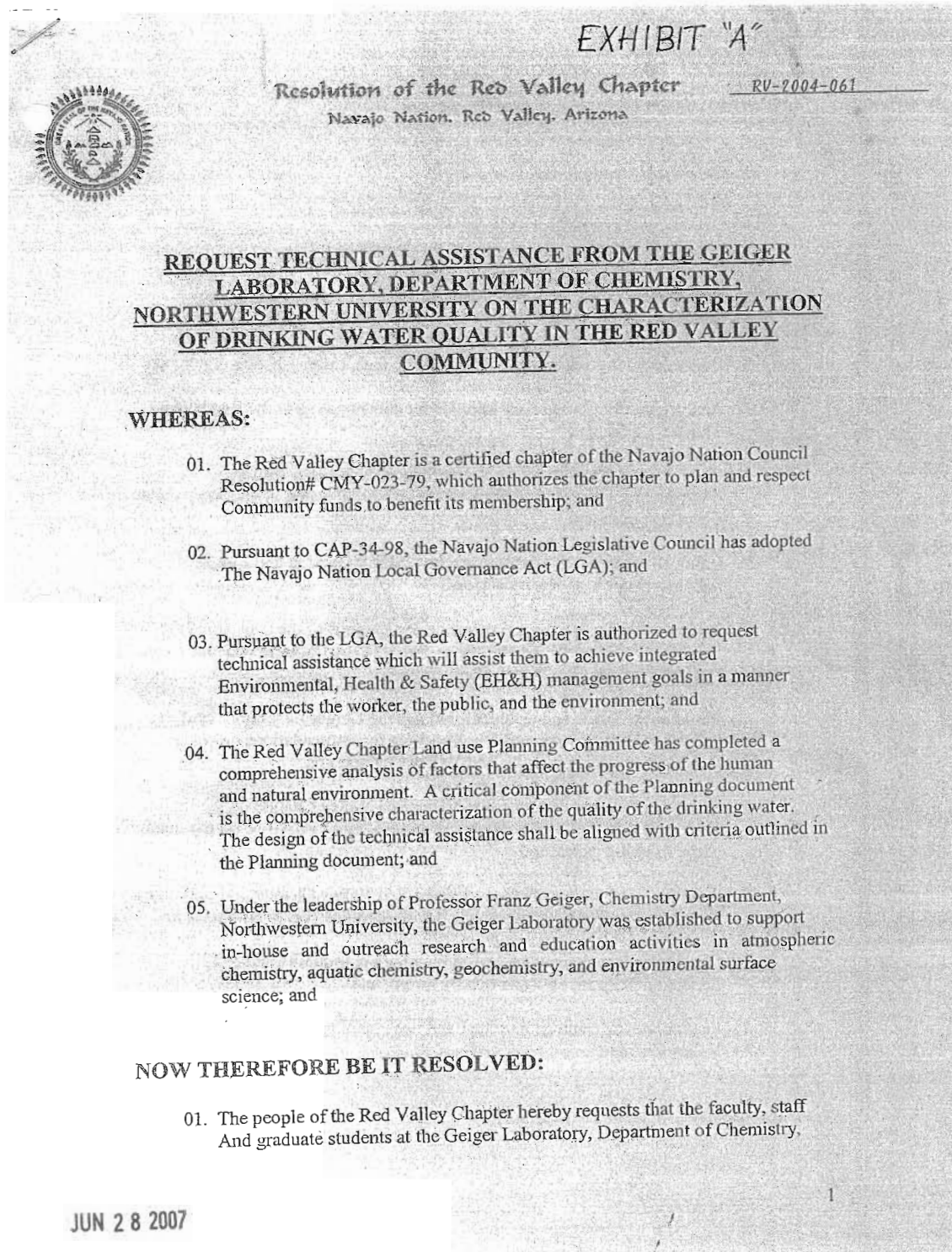
06/22/2007

J C Begay, President

Enclosure:

Cc. Ray Gilmore, Navajo Water Rights Commissioner
Chapter Officers
Chrono File

Comment TG-07 – continued



Comment TG-07 – continued

Northwestern University conduct the following tasks:

1. Data reduction and interpretation of the U.S. Environmental Agency (USEPA) – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) water data base; and
2. Collect drinking water well samples in the Red Valley Chapter region; and
3. Analyze drinking water well samples for contaminants in the Red Valley Chapter region; and
4. Use current Federal Drinking Water Standards to assist with the Characterization of the quality of the drinking water in the Red Valley Chapter region; and
5. Conduct a comparative analysis of the USEPA-USACE and Geiger Laboratory drinking water data; and
6. Submit an oral and a written report on the findings of the analysis of the Drinking water well samples from the USEPA-USACE and the Geiger Laboratory to the Red Valley Chapter; and
7. Based on scientific and technical findings the Geiger Laboratory staff will Submit an Action Plan, which will include recommendations on water Remediation program to the Red Valley Chapter; and
8. Submit an oral and written report to the Red Valley Chapter on the findings With regard to the impact of past uranium mining activities on the quality of the drinking water; and
9. Submit an oral and written report to the Red Valley Chapter on the findings With regard to the Environmental, Health & Safety (ES & H) issues; and
10. Develop and implement an Action Plan for a community and K-12 Education program on water quality issues; and
11. Incorporate the findings into the Land use Planning document for the Red Valley Chapter.

JUN 28 2007

Comment TG-07 – continued

CERTIFICATION

We hereby, certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly considered by the people of the Red Valley Chapter at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 28 in favor and 0 opposed, this 13th day of June, 2004.

Phil Harrison
Phil Harrison, Chapter President

Tony Light 6/13/04
Tony Light, Chapter Vice-President

Willie Johnson 6/13/04
Willie Johnson, Council Delegate

Roselyn Aguirre
Roselyn Aguirre, Chapter Secretary

Alma Noy
(pro-temp) 6/13/04

JUN 28 2007

3

Comment TG-07 – continued

Feb-22-2001 14:20

From: OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

915208717255

T-580 P.002/005 F-916

EXHIBIT "B"

RESOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE RED VALLEY CHAPTER

Request Technical Assistance from the U. S. Geological Survey and New Mexico Bureau of Mines to Support the Interpretation of U. S. Environmental Agency – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Quality Data-Base.

WHEREAS:

1. The citizens of the Red Valley chapter are participants in Tribal, State and Federal elections and deem the right to make recommendations that will affect their community; and,
2. Pursuant to CAP-34-98, the Navajo Nation Council has adopted the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA); and,
3. Pursuant to the LGA, the Red Valley Chapter is authorized to request technical assistance which will assist them to achieve integrated safety management goals in a manner that protects the worker, the public, and the environment; and,
4. The U. S. Environmental Agency and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers have completed the collection of water-quality data in the Red Valley Chapter region; and,
5. The mission of the U. S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Division (WRD) is to provide reliable, impartial, timely information that is needed to understand the Nation's water resources. WRD actively promotes the use of this information by decision makers to:
 - a. Minimize the loss of life and property as a result of water-related natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, and land movement.
 - b. Effectively manage groundwater and surface-water resources for domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological uses.
 - c. Protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, and environmental quality.
 - d. Contribute to wise physical and economic development of the Nation's resources for the benefit of present and future generations; and
6. The Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, was established to conduct applied research into the geology and mineral resources. The Bureau conducts studies and disseminates information on geology, mineral and energy resources, water resources, geologic hazards, environmental problems, and extractive metallurgy. Such information is used regularly by federal, state, local agencies, public organizations, private industry, and individual citizens to make informed decisions about resource development and management, water supplies, land use, environmental impacts, natural hazard assessment, and waste disposal.

JUN 28 2007

Comment TG-07 – continued

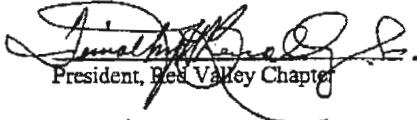
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

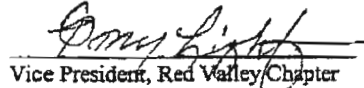
1. The people of the Red Valley Chapter hereby requests the U. S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources use the U. S. Environmental Agency – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers water data base to:

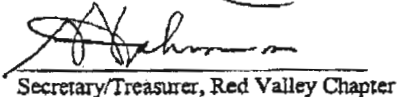
- a. Characterize general water quality conditions; and
- b. Characterize the impact of past uranium mining activities on water quality conditions; and
- c. Develop technical reports for use by the Chapters; and
- d. Develop technical reports for use by K-12 Schools who will develop lesson plans on water quality.

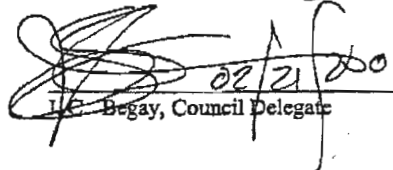
CERTIFICATION

We, hereby, certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly considered by the people of the Red Valley Chapter at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 39 in favor and 0 opposed, this 11 day of FEBRUARY, 2001.


President, Red Valley Chapter


Vice President, Red Valley Chapter


Secretary/Treasurer, Red Valley Chapter


02/21/2001
H.C. Begay, Council Delegate

Attachments

Comment TG-07 – continued

EXHIBIT "C"



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

NOV -9-2000

Office of the Regional Administrator

Mr. J.C. Begay, Navajo Nation Council Delegate
Red Valley and Cove Chapters
PO Box 183
Red Valley, AZ 86544

Rec'd.
11/29/2000
9:30 AM

Dear Mr. Begay,

This letter is in response to your request for information about the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Abandoned Uranium Mine Project. I am sorry for the delay. We are transitioning between project managers and my staff is in the process of responding to roughly 200 requests for information about the first round of field sampling. Please note that the USEPA and the NNEPA are currently evaluating these data to determine the most appropriate follow-up actions.

We briefly discussed your request for a project status report after the Navajo Tribal Council Meeting on July 18. I am including a copy of a general project status report and am also providing a summary of the problem areas we identified in the Red Valley and Cove study areas. USEPA provided preliminary results to the following chapter officials:

Willie W. Johnson Sr., President, Red Valley Chapter
(PO Box 304, Red Valley, AZ 86544)
Tele: 520-653-5800.

Thomas Young, Sr., President, Cove Chapter
(PO Box 276, Red Valley, AZ 86544)
Tele: 520-653-4025

Joe Ray Harvey, Grazing Official, Red Valley and Cove Chapters

Based on our first round of field sampling, we identified the following areas and characterized the types of environmental concerns:

Cove Area

- Alco Canyon Springs (North of the Cove Community)- there is a radiation and metals exposure hazard in water from an unknown source
- Lukachukai Canyons (South of the Cove Community) - there is a radiation and metals

JUN 28 2007

Comment TG-07 – continued



exposure hazard in water from an unknown source

- Cove (Old Ore Transfer Station) - there is a radiation hazard from waste ore
- Pine Water Springs - there is a lead hazard in water from an unknown source

Red Valley Area

- North Thumb Rock Spring and West Thumb Rock Spring - there is a radiation exposure hazard in water from an unknown source

We would like to send you, as well as the above and any newly elected officials, a complete set of the data in the form of maps and CD Rom computer diskettes. We would also extend an offer for you to meet with the U.S. EPA project manager and Navajo EPA staff to discuss the results, the risks posed and possible follow up actions.

If you have any additional questions about the Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Project, please contact my staff member, Andy Bain at (415) 744-2186 or George Padilla at NNEPA (520) 871-6861.

Yours,

Felicia Marcus,
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Derrith Watchman Moore, NNEPA
Arlene Luther, NNEPA
George Padilla, NNEPA
Laura Yoshii, USEPA
Keith Takata, USEPA

JUN 28 2007

Comment TG-07 – continued



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

Abandoned Uranium Mines
Navajo Lands Project Status - Summer 2000

The Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mines Project is conducted by the USEPA Region 9 Superfund Program in coordination with the Navajo EPA and Navajo AML/UMTRA. The USEPA began this project following the Congressional committee report entitled "Deep Pockets: Taxpayer Liability for Environmental Contamination" of July 1993 and hearings on November 4, 1993. At that time, the Navajo Nation presented testimony on the abandoned uranium mines and requested assistance in determining if the old mines pose a health risk to residents. USEPA presented testimony on its federal authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) also known as Superfund, and how the EPA could assist the tribe. The US Departments of Energy and Interior also participated.

In 1994 USEPA, with the assistance of the Navajo EPA, investigated the abandoned uranium mines in the area of Red Valley. From that study EPA developed three steps for investigating other areas with old uranium mines. The three steps are as follows: 1) A radiation survey conducted by helicopter to find the sources of radiation in the areas of the old mines, 2) The testing of water used for human consumption, and 3) The surveying of homes for construction with materials from the old mines.

The investigations were conducted by USEPA with technical assistance provided by USDOE, Remote Sensing Laboratory, Nellis AFB, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District. The field teams coordinate work with the Navajo EPA, Navajo AML/UMTRA and local communities in more than 30 Chapters. The helicopter team has surveyed more than 1000 square miles in areas of the old mines. The aerial surveys have located hundreds of sources of radiation from single or clusters of mines, and loading areas. The field team has sampled more than 200 water sources that are being analyzed for 23 metals and 11 radionuclides.

The products of this project include maps and information for Chapters concerning the radiation found in their communities and maps of radiation sources for other offices such as those involved in land use planning. Technical reports for Navajo EPA, Navajo AML/UMTRA, Navajo Water Resources, NTUA (utility), and health professionals are also being created. Information has been provided as data were collected, analyzed and evaluated.

In summary, the purpose of this project is to identify the radiation sources, characterize the exposure, and recommend methods to reduce radiation exposure. Essential in this is educating people about the radiation and working with individual communities, Navajo EPA, and other agencies to collect data, share results, and help develop solutions.

Contacts at the USEPA: Andrew Bain 415-744-2186, Vicki Rosen 415-744-2187

Comment TG-07 – continued

