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STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

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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.

Sincerely,

**Virginia
Seamster**

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

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office