

EXHIBIT I



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 27, 2008

Mr. Ernest House, Sr.
Tribal Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P.O. Box 248
Towaoc, Colorado 81334-0248

Dear Chairman House:

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2008, in which you request a potential partnership in managing the long-term environmental impacts and monitoring programs near the White Mesa Uranium Mill in San Juan County, Utah. The Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) appreciates the invitation to participate in the partnership, but must decline at this time.

DOE-LM has a goal to protect human health and the environment through effective and efficient long-term surveillance and maintenance, but DOE-LM is not scheduled to receive the White Mesa site until the year 2035 or later. Therefore DOE-LM currently has no authority to address contamination issues at this site. Typically, DOE-LM begins to devote resources to a site a year or two prior to the expected transition of the site in order to facilitate a smooth transition. The site is currently operating under a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and is subject to regulation by the state of Utah, which is an NRC-agreement state. Before DOE-LM assumes surveillance and maintenance of the site, the private owner is responsible for addressing the contamination of the air, soil, and groundwater in accordance with its operating license. Discussions with the state of Utah could be more beneficial to you at this time.

Should you have further need to discuss this matter, please contact DOE-LM's Site Manager, Tracy Ribeiro at (970) 248-6621.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Owen".

Michael W. Owen
Director
Office of Legacy Management

Cc:
S. Clow, Ute Mountain Environmental Programs Department
D. Finerfrock, Executive Secretary of Utah Radiation Control Board

