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STATE OF COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING, DENVER 2  
R. L. CLEERE, M. D., M. P. H.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 19, 1952

Dr. Shields Warren  
Chief, Division Biology and Medicine  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Warren:

For the past 18 months our Division of Industrial Hygiene, in cooperation with the Field Station, Division of Occupational Health, U. S. Public Health Service, has been carrying on an investigation of the environmental conditions in the uranium mines. As you probably know, Colorado produces by far the largest volume of uranium ore. It has been estimated, although I do not have the facts, that there are between 300 and 400 uranium mines in the state. It presently represents our largest mineral production.

Frankly, we are quite concerned about the high level of radon and radon daughter products that we have found in these mines. I believe that you have been informed of these findings through the Division of Occupational Health, U. S. Public Health Service. Despite the extensive amount of work that has been done, we have only been able to cover a rather small percentage of the uranium mines. I think it is now time for us to evaluate conditions in all of these establishments. By evaluating conditions I mean to determine the level of radon and radon daughter products, the number of men exposed, the sanitary conditions surrounding the mines, and what type of ventilation is provided, if any.

In order to carry out this project, it has been indicated that an expenditure of \$10,000 would be necessary. This would provide 3 teams of 2 persons each and the necessary equipment for them to make these studies. As our legislature has met and will not reconvene for another year it is impossible for me to obtain this sum from our operating budget. I am wondering if it would be possible for the Atomic Energy Commission to make a grant to the Colorado Health Department in order to carry out these studies or lend this department the necessary manpower and equipment.

Of course you realize that the Atomic Energy Commission has a vital interest in the production of uranium ores from this state. I am advised that the control of these contaminants is not a difficult problem and can be readily accomplished by means of adequate ventilation. It is our purpose to cooperate with your Division and the Atomic Energy Commission to the fullest extent but we have the responsibility, both legally and morally, of protecting the health of the industrial worker. It is my firm conviction that these corrections can be obtained in the mining industry by educational methods and it will not be necessary

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to resort to any means other than educational in order to secure corrections. I feel that a thorough investigation of the existing conditions in the uranium mines would be to our mutual benefit.

I will appreciate any assistance that the Atomic Energy Commission can give us in carrying out this project.

Sincerely,



R. L. Cleere, M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director

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