



State of Utah

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF RADIATION CONTROL

JUL 29 1994

WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

Michael O. Leavitt
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Executive Director
William J. Sinclair
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June 16, 1994

Sharon Arp
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, N.M. 87185-5400

Dear Ms. Arp:

This letter is in regards to our recent telephone conversation regarding groundwater use at the former Vitro processing site. You had indicated concern over some correspondence forwarded to you by our Division from the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Drinking Water, Utah Department of Environmental Quality regarding the use of a groundwater well located on the former Vitro processing site as a drinking water source for the city of South Salt Lake. The purpose of forwarding this correspondence was to alert the Department of Energy (DOE) to the possibility so DOE could forward their concerns such as those expressed in our telephone conversation to the Utah agencies identified by the correspondence. It should be noted that the well is located in the uncontaminated deep aquifer (812 feet). Groundwater conditions are such that communication between the uppermost "contaminated" aquifer and the deep aquifer at the former Vitro process site are unlikely.

At this point, final approval has not been granted and DNR is gathering comments and recommendations on the proposal. It is my recommendation that DOE put their concerns in writing to Robert Morgan of DNR or Kevin Brown of the Utah Drinking Water program as soon as possible. We are supportive of your position that the use of water for drinking from the former Vitro processing site be carefully evaluated to ensure that the State of Utah and the Department of Energy's interests are protected. Knowledge of an existing contaminated groundwater plume at the former Vitro processing site in the uppermost aquifer heightens that concern.

If you have any questions, please contact Dane Finerfrock of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Sinclair".

**William J. Sinclair, Director
Division of Radiation Control**

**c: Kevin Brown, Division of Drinking Water, UDEQ
Robert L. Morgan, State Engineer, Division of Water Rights
South Salt Lake City**