

Box 53
Boulder, Wyoming 82923
August 28, 1972

Mr. Gerald W. Johnson, Director
Division of Applied Technology
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Johnson:

With regard to your letter of July 21 to me, and also with regard to your letter of July 24 to Mrs. Harriet Jorgensen, of which I have a copy, I wish to bring a number of points to your attention.

You, and lately, Dr. Randolph, keep referring to "confusion" occasioned by our Committee correspondence. Let me say that you, sir, are a public servant, whose salary is paid by the taxes of citizens like ourselves, and like the thousands of signers of our petition. You have at your disposal secretaries, library researchers, modern office equipment, and all the resources of government. We, the sixty or so active members of the Wagon Wheel Information Committee, are spread out over a large rural area. We are ranchers, small business owners, doctors, teachers, housewives, laborers, blue collar workers, ranch hands, etc., all of whom are engaged in making a living, and all of whom can ill afford the amount of time they are being forced to devote to this committee work in order to preserve the quality of life they now enjoy in Sublette County. For ninety percent of us, summer time is our busiest season.

Believe me, every letter you send is evaluated by our entire Committee.

In your letter to Mrs. Jorgensen you state that "it became necessary to choose that correspondence which appeared most official in evaluating comments on the draft environmental statement." Let me say that this is exactly what you did NOT do. You ignored our printed comments and yet published my own highly personal statement (my March 12 letter to Congressman Teno Roncalio). Just because the printed comments of our Committee happened to have my signature on the covering letters did not make them any less the official comments of our sixty active members. That your agency should use the same unspecific statement to answer both my personal letter and the official comments of our Committee is absurd.

The burden is on you, and the other AEC officials, not to "choose the correspondence that appears most official", but to adequately answer all correspondence -- every single letter from every citizen -- and the burden is on you to straighten out any hint of confusion.

August 28, 1972

You had better remember that you are public servants earning a tax-supported salary, not dictators conferring favors.

As far as confusion is concerned, we are simply amazed at the lack of coordination between the AEC and El Paso Natural Gas Company. I would expect that extremely close communication would exist at all times between yourselves and your "industrial sponsor" but you and Dr. Randolph both admit that this is not so.

It would seem that the several thousand petition signers, whom the sixty or so active Committee members represent, haven't made much impression on the AEC. However, our legislators have not ignored them. I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Senator Gale McGee to Chairman Schlesinger. Senator McGee forwarded a copy of this letter to an officer of the Boulder Irrigation District who is also Chairman of our Committee. Our Committee would be most interested to have a copy of Chairman Schlesinger's answer to Senator McGee.

We, the Committee members, will be looking forward to renewed efforts on your part to answer all of our letters and evaluate all of our views.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Steele
Wagon Wheel Information Committee

c.c.

Governor Stan Hathaway
Senator Clifford Hansen
Senator Gale McGee
Congressman Teno Roncalio
Dr. James R. Schlesinger
Mr. R. E. Hollingsworth, AEC
Mr. J. H. Rubin, AEC
Mr. W. H. Pennington, AEC
Dr. Philip Randolph. El Paso