Robert J. Huston, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
John M. Baker, *Commissioner*
Jeffrey A. Saitas, *Executive Director*

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 17, 2001

Mr. Larry D. Wright
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue 6WSU
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Alta Mesa Mine, Aquifer Exemption

Dear Mr. Wright:

This is in reply to your letter dated July 24, 2001. You expressed concerns about the three water wells within the Alta Mesa Area of Review. Our staff has notified Mesteña Uranium, the permit holder, of this concern. Mesteña Uranium plans to plug the three wells before they start injection operations. Copies of the correspondence from Mesteña Uranium's consultant on the wells are attached.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Mr. John Santos at (512)239-1030. If responding by mail please send to mail code MC130.

Sincerely,

Wade M. Wheatley, P.E., Manager
Industrial and Hazardous Waste Permits Section
Waste Permits Division

WMW/JJS/lg

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Nancy Dorsey, USEPA Region 6
Mr. John Santos, UIC Permits Team