

January 21, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Thomas H. Essig, Chief  
Uranium Recovery and  
Low-Level Waste Branch  
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

FROM: Melanie Wong, Project Manager (Original Signed By)  
Uranium Recovery and  
Low-Level Waste Branch  
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: EXCURSION STATUS OF MONITOR WELL MW46S AT IRIGARAY  
AND CHRISTENSEN RANCH *IN SITU* LEACH URANIUM PROJECTS,  
LICENSE SUA-1341

On September 3, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operations Center was notified of the excursion status of monitor well MW46S at COGEMA Mining, Inc. (COGEMA) Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* Leach (ISL) Uranium Projects and a written notification was submitted to the NRC Uranium Recovery and Low-Level Waste Branch on September 10, 1999, in accordance with License Condition 12.2.

MW46S is an interior shallow sand monitor well located inside Mine Unit 3 boundary at the Christensen Mine. A routine bi-weekly water sample collected on September 1, 1998, from this monitor well, indicated that the excursion parameters for chloride and conductivity had exceeded their upper control limits (UCLs). For the confirmation sample collected on September 2, 1998, both parameters continued to exceed their UCLs and, thus, MW46S sampling frequency was increased to weekly.

Corrective action consisted of pumping nearby well 3M17-3 at 5 gallons per minute. Based on COGEMA's letter dated February 18, 1999, the corrective action was successful in lowering both excursion parameters. An excursion status is considered contained when not more than one UCL is exceeded for three consecutively weekly samples. Chloride levels for the samples taken from January 5, 1999, through February 17, 1999, were below their UCLs. The monitor well was then removed from excursion status.

Based upon the corrective action and favorable results, this event is now closed.

CONTACT: Melanie Wong, NMSS/DWM  
(301) 415-6262

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Case Closed: L51733

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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