

May 23, 2000

Ms. Donna L. Wichers
General Manager
COGEMA Mining, Incorporated
935 Pendell Boulevard
P.O. Box 730
Mills, WY 82644

SUBJECT: EXTENSION REQUEST OF DECOMMISSIONING PLAN SUBMITTAL, IRIGARAY
AND CHRISTENSEN RANCH *IN SITU* LEACH URANIUM PROJECT, LICENSE
SUA-1341

Dear Ms. Wichers:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of your extension request for the submittal of COGEMA Mining, Inc. (COGEMA) Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* Leach (ISL) Uranium Project's decommissioning plan. Condition 12.5 of Materials License SUA-1341 specifies that COGEMA must submit a decommissioning plan to the NRC by April 30, 2000. By letter dated October 18, 1999, COGEMA had requested an amendment to address the submittal of a decommissioning plan to the NRC by April 30, 2000.

On April 27, 2000, in a telephone conversation between Michael Layton of NRC and T.W. Hardgrove of COGEMA, COGEMA requested a one week extension for submitting the decommissioning plan. Your request for an extension of eight days (to May 8, 2000) was also submitted by cover letter dated April 27, 2000. In this letter, COGEMA requested an extension to complete its review of the decommissioning plan which was hampered by COGEMA's preparation for the NRC April site inspection, as well as decommissioning training.

Based on its review, the NRC exercised enforcement discretion, extending the deadline for submittal of COGEMA's decommissioning plan to May 8, 2000. On May 9, 2000, after no response, Melanie Wong of the NRC contacted you regarding the non-submittal. In the telephone conversation, you stated that COGEMA was unable to meet the submittal deadline because your staff had misplaced the decommissioning plan's attachments.

On May 10, 2000, the decommissioning plan was received by NRC via Federal Express. While we will not pursue enforcement action for missing the April 30 date and the extended deadline of May 8, as stated in Condition 12.5, we would appreciate that any future licensing requests be met in a timely manner, given the time needed for the NRC to review and approve COGEMA decommissioning operations. Future delays could result in enforcement action against COGEMA or the review being delayed.

Wichers

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If you have any questions concerning this subject, please contact the NRC project manager for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch facilities, Melanie Wong, at (301) 415-6262, or e-mail at mcw@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8502
License No.: SUA-1341

cc: B. Guirgevich, WDEQ - District III
G. Mooney, WDEQ - District III

Wichers

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G. Mooney, WDEQ - District III

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