

May 9, 2000

Mr. Roy S. Blickwedel  
Remedial Project Manager  
General Electric Company  
640 Freedom Business Center  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT 30, 2000 ANNUAL SURETY UPDATE FOR CHURCH ROCK

Dear Mr. Blickwedel:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed General Electric Company's (GE's) letter dated March 28, 2000, which requested a decrease in the surety amount for United Nuclear Corporation's (UNC's) Church Rock uranium mill and tailings site. The requested decrease, from \$1,772,728 to \$1,468,787, is based on revisions to the estimates for work to be completed, particularly a decrease in well abandonment costs of about \$280,000 due to abandonment (plugging) of 183 wells in 1999. NRC staff has reviewed the documents submitted by UNC, including the replacement performance bond for \$1,772,728 (issued by Federal Insurance Company) submitted by UNC letter dated April 18, 2000.

The staff has concluded that the decrease in the surety amount is acceptable. The current performance bond may be reissued for \$1,468,787, and transmitted to the NRC. The term of the bond should include 90 days from the date on which UNC expects to provide its 2001 surety update for the Church Rock site, to provide for staff review while the bond is still in effect.

Therefore, pursuant to Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 40, Materials License SUA-1475 is hereby amended by revising the third paragraph in License Condition (LC) No. 25 to reflect the revised surety amount of \$1,468,787. All other conditions of the license shall remain the same. The license is being reissued to incorporate the above modifications (enclosure).

An environmental report is not required from UNC because the amendment does not meet the criteria of 10 CFR 51.60 (b)(2). An environmental assessment for the action is not required, since this license revision is categorically excluded under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10).

R. Blickwedel

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Please contact Ken Hooks, the NRC Project Manager for the Church Rock site, at 301-415-7777, if you have any questions concerning this letter or the enclosure.

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. 40-8907  
License No. SUA-1475

Enclosure: Amendment No. 30

cc: Greg Lyssy, EPA Region 6  
Marci Leavitt, NMED Superfund Oversight Section  
George Padilla, Navajo EPA Superfund Program  
Russel Edge, DOE Grand Junction  
Larry Bush, UNC Gallup NM

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**Case closed - L51928**

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