

July 3, 2000

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

SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING PLAN ACCEPTANCE REVIEW, IRIGARAY AND
CHRISTENSEN RANCH *IN SITU* LEACH URANIUM PROJECT

Dear Ms. Wichers:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the acceptance review of COGEMA Mining, Incorporated's Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* Leach Uranium Project surface (land and structures) decommissioning plan, submitted by cover letter dated May 8, 2000. During the initial processing, the NRC staff identified significant omissions or deficiencies in the provided information, which make your submittal unacceptable for the purpose of conducting a detailed technical review.

As discussed via telephone with you and Elaine Brummett and Melanie Wong of NRC on May 24, 2000, the plan is missing: site operational history (spills, leaks, etc.); site radiological characterization; background data (only the average soil Ra-226 value was provided); details on procedures, criteria, and instruments to be used; the soil gamma-radium correlation and the proposed gamma guideline value; quality assurance and control plan for the verification (final status survey) procedures and data processing; health and safety plan changes for decommissioning; environmental impact information; and the itemized estimated cost for the planned decommissioning activities. The NRC staff referenced the requirements of 10 CFR 40.42(g)(4) and provided Decommissioning Inspection Procedure 87654 for guidance.

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The staff also mentioned that failure to submit a detailed plan by August may delay the final review schedule and the proposed start of your decommissioning process because the complete technical review may identify items that require a request for additional information. If you have any questions concerning this subject, please contact the new NRC project manager for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch facilities, Elaine Brummett, at (301) 415-6606 or e-mail at esb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Philip Ting, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
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

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