



# COGEMA

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## Mining, Inc.

September 7, 2000

**LICENSE SUA-1341  
DOCKET NO. 40-8502**

Mr. Phillip Ting, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 8A33  
Washington, D.C. 20555

**Subject: Operating Status Summary, Irigaray and Christensen Ranch Projects**

Dear Mr Ting:

Pursuant to a request from Ms. Elaine Brummett of your staff, an operating status summary of the Irigaray and Christensen Projects is hereby provided.

### **Christensen Ranch Project**

All chemical addition to the mining wellfields ceased during February, 2000. Uranium recovery was slowly phased out during the following months, with the last operating wellfield shut down on June, 23, 2000. Groundwater restoration is ongoing with active restoration in two out of five Mine Units (#3 and 5). Residual uranium is removed at a rate of approximately 50 lbs. per day during the Christensen restoration process. Projected completion of groundwater restoration is in 2005, with final decommissioning and surface reclamation to follow.

### **Irigaray Project**

Mining ended in 1994. Groundwater restoration is ongoing with two Production Units (# 6 and 7) out of a total of nine. Restoration has been completed in the other seven Production Units. Residual uranium is removed at a rate of approximately 10 lbs. per day during the Irigaray restoration process. Completion of groundwater restoration is projected for late 2001, with wellfield decommissioning and surface reclamation to follow. Decommissioning of most plant facilities will not begin until groundwater restoration is completed at the Christensen Project and all recovered uranium is processed.

It is anticipated that the yellowcake dryer will be operated for short campaigns on a as-needed basis, throughout the Christensen restoration project. The next campaign may occur at the end of this year and would take approximately 14 days to dry the estimated 22,000 lbs. Otherwise, no drying will occur until sometime in 2001. Drying campaigns will potentially be annually thereafter, through the end of Christensen restoration.

Mr. P. Ting  
September 7, 2000  
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Please contact me if you should have any questions regarding the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Vaselein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Vaselein  
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Elaine Brummett, NRC - Washington, DC  
Division Director, NRC - Arlington, TX  
Wayne Heili - COGEMA  
Donna Wichers - COGEMA