

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Mike Johanns
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Suite 400, The Atrium
1200 'N' Street
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922
Phone (402) 471-2186

September 6, 2000

40-8943

United State Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Phillip Ting
11154 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20850

**Re: Crow Butte Resources
Class I Injection Well Permit Modification**

Dear Phillip:

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality is proposing to modify the Class I Injection Well Permit (#NE0206369) at the Crow Butte facility. Enclosed is a copy of the Public Notice for your review.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact me at (402) 471-4982.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Miesbach".

David L. Miesbach
UIC Program Coordinator
Ground Water Unit
Water Quality Division

ENCLOSURE

DLM/rd
word/dave/cbr/letter/neighbor.doc

NMSS01PUBLIC

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PERMIT MODIFICATION
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division

Pursuant to Title 122, Rules and Regulations for Underground Injection and Mineral Production Wells, Chapter 27, 31, 32, and 33, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality is proposing to modify permit number NE0206369 to Crow Butte Resources, Inc. (CBR). CBR operates a deep injection well designed to accept waste fluids generated at its in-situ uranium mining operation. The injection well is located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 31 North, Range 51 West, Dawes County, Nebraska.

The Department is proposing to modify the existing permit by removing the injection limitations on flow rate. The limitation for pH is proposed to be changed from 5.0 – 8.5 to 5.0 – 9.5. Reporting for the temperature of the waste stream is proposed to be removed. The limitations for arsenic, barium, and selenium are proposed to be changed from 1 mg/l to 5 mg/l, 20 mg/l to 100 mg/l, and 2 mg/l to 1 mg/l, respectively. Testing for calcium is proposed to be added to the injection parameters with no injection limitation. Testing for cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and silver is proposed to be added with limitations of 1 mg/l, 5 mg/l, 5 mg/l, 0.2 mg/l, and 5 mg/l respectively.

In addition, the permit is proposed to be modified to incorporate several well construction changes, which will allow more flexibility for CBR during routine well maintenance activities.

The formations receiving injected waste fluids are restricted to the Morrison and Sundance Formations, which have been demonstrated to be located below the lowermost underground source of drinking water. In addition, the Morrison and the Sundance Formations exhibit water quality that is considered unacceptable under State and Federal Regulations as underground sources of drinking water due to naturally high concentrations of total dissolved solids. The Department believes that the proposed permit modifications will fully protect the injection zone against formation fractures.

The permit requires the operator to monitor concentrations of specific parameters in the injection fluids to insure that only non-hazardous wastes are being injected. In addition, the injection well will be monitored on a continuous basis to record the injection process and ensure compliance with permit conditions.

Persons may request a fact sheet, may comment upon or object to permit modification, or may request a public hearing by writing to Michael J. Linder, Director, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922, prior to October 13, 2000. A request for public hearing shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised at a hearing. All comments shall be considered by the Director prior to making a decision regarding a public hearing. If the Department receives substantive comments regarding these proposed modifications, a public hearing may be scheduled.

Copies of the fact sheet and all information pertaining to the permit modification will be available for viewing and copying at the Department of Environmental Quality, Suite 400, 1200 N Street, The Atrium, in Lincoln between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, or mailed upon request. Further information may be obtained by contacting David Miesbach, UIC Program Coordinator, (402) 471-0096.

Individuals requiring special accommodations or alternate formats of materials should notify the Department by calling (402) 471-2186. TDD users should call (800) 833-7352 and ask the relay operator to call the Department at (402) 471-2186.