

October 6, 2000

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW FOR THE ANNUAL SURETY UPDATE

Dear Ms. Wichers:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its acceptance review of your proposed annual surety update submitted August 17, 2000, for the COGEMA Mining, Inc. (COGEMA) Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* Leach Uranium Projects. The submittal met the date in License Condition 9.5 and the inflation factor of 15.6 percent (based on change in Consumer Price Index from August 1994 to June 2000) is correct. Because COGEMA will submit a final surface decommissioning plan and its estimated cost in December (letter of September 7, 2000) and the proposed surety amount of \$14,251,113 is less than the current letter of credit (\$15,018,000), the staff had determined that the detailed surety review will be performed after the review of the decommissioning plan is completed.

The review of the surety update proposal should be completed in February which should coincide with the surety evaluation from the State. That would allow COGEMA to do one update in the surety instrument amount. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Elaine Brummett, the NRC project manager for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch facilities, at (301) 415-6606 or by e-mail at ESB@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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: G. Mooney, WDEQ - District III
R. Poyser, COGEMA

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DOCUMENT NAME: ADAMS/NMSS/FCSS/FCLB/UR/Title II licensing/COGEMA/CIC surety
Accession No.: ML003754637

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