

December 18, 2000

Mr. Michael L. Griffin
Manager of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs
Crow Butte Resources, Inc.
86 Crow Butte Road
Post Office Box 169
Crawford, NE 69339-0169

SUBJECT: REPLY TO EVAPORATION POND 4 LINER LEAK FINAL REPORT, CROW
BUTTE FACILITY, LICENSE NO. SUA-1534

Dear Mr. Griffin:

We received your final report on the Evaporation Pond 4 liner leak, dated September 25, 2000. This report is a follow-up report to the 30-day report required by License Condition 12.3, which was submitted on June 16, 2000.

The September 25, 2000 report provided a summary of the events associated with Evaporation Pond 4 liner leak, the repairs performed on the liner, mitigative measures completed to flush and pump the underdrain system after the repairs were completed, and graphs showing the decreasing trends in the analyzed parameters from the underdrain. The September 25 report also provided documentation of the analyses in the underdrain, analyses from the two ground-water monitoring wells associated with the pond, and copies of the daily inspection forms for Pond 4. The September 25 report concluded that the liner repairs and mitigative measures were successful in returning the underdrain to a condition that would allow reliable detection of potential future leaks in the Pond 4 liner system.

Crow Butte Resources stated that the Evaporation Pond 4 has been returned to routine operations and the weekly underdrain sampling and analyses will be discontinued. We agree with your conclusions and the decision to return the pond to routine operations and monitoring, based on the information provided in the final report. Inspections and monitoring of Evaporation Pond 4 should continue in accordance with License Condition 11.4.

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).

M. Griffin

2

December 18, 2000

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Mr. Michael Layton, at (301) 415-6676 or e-mail mcl@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. 40-8943
License No. SUA-1534

cc: Stephen P. Collings, CBR, Denver
Dave Miesbach, Nebraska, UIC, DEQ
Dave Carlson Nebraska, UIC, DEQ
Cheryl K. Rogers, Nebraska, RMP, PHA

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cc: Stephen P. Collings, CBR, Denver
Dave Miesbach, Nebraska, UIC, DEQ
Dave Carlson Nebraska, UIC, DEQ
Cheryl K. Rogers, Nebraska, RMP, PHA

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