



Smith Ranch - Highland  
 Uranium Project  
 P. O. Box 1210  
 Glenrock, Wyoming USA 82637  
 Casper: 307-235-1628  
 Douglas: 307-358-6541  
 Fax: 307-358-4533

September 11, 2002

*Please docket  
 40-8964  
 Thank you  
 JM*

Mr. John Wagner, Cheyenne Office Program Manager  
 Land Quality Division  
 Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
 122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Cheyenne, WY 82002

Re: Corrective Action Report 8, West Evaporation Pond Leak  
 Permit to Mine 633, License SUA-1548, Docket 40-8964

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Power Resources, Inc. (PRI) is herein providing a monthly status report for the West Evaporation Pond leak at the Smith Ranch facility. The monthly status report for the East Evaporation Pond leak was concluded with the previous report dated August 9, 2002.

**West Evaporation Pond Status**

During a routine inspection on January 4, 2002, it was discovered that the water level in the West Evaporation Pond sump exceeded six inches (6"). The water level in the pond, 3' 2" at the time of the discovery, was lowered to 2' 10" in order to stop the leak. The sump water was analyzed for chloride, specific conductance, bicarbonate, uranium, and sulfate. The results are provided below:

Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	5,100 mg/L
Specific Conductance @ 25° C	3,941 μ Siemens
Bicarbonate	396 mg/L
Uranium as U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	36 mg/L
Sulfate	4,700 mg/L

Upon receipt of the confirming analysis, both Steve Ingle of WDEQ and John Lusher of NRC were notified via telephone on January 11, 2002.

During the report period, August 10 through September 11, the water level in the West Evaporation Pond was slowly raised from a level of 3' 8" to test the integrity of the liner. On August 23, 2002, with the level at 4' 3", the pond began to leak as approximately 10" of water

*NMSSD1*

Mr. John Wagner  
Corrective Action Report 8, West Evaporation Pond Leak  
September 11, 2002

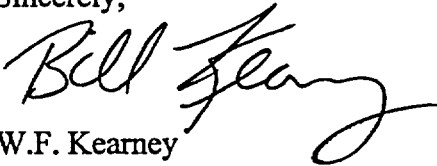
collected in the sump. A water sample was collected from the sump and analyzed for chloride, uranium, and sulfate. The results are provided below:

Chemical	Concentration
Chloride	7,094 mg/L
Uranium as U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	56.3 mg/L
Sulfate	5,446 mg/L

Upon determination of the leak from the West Evaporation Pond, flow to the pond was shut-in. The water level has subsequently dropped to 3' 2" and the leakage has been controlled. Additional repair work will be performed before the water level in the pond is raised again.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (307) 358-6541, ext. 62.

Sincerely,



W.F. Kearney  
Manager-Health, Safety  
& Environmental Affairs

WFK/sab

cc: J. Lusher-USNRC, Rockville, MD  
S.P. Collings  
R. Knode  
S.A. Bakken  
File