



# COGEMA

40-8502

March 10, 2003

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Elaine Brummett - ADDRESSEE ONLY  
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch  
Mail Stop T-8A33  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Please docket to  
40-8502

**RE: RSO Qualifications and Training**

As I stated by phone, I will be ending my employment with COGEMA on March 31, 2003. Mr. Tom Nicholson has been hired as my replacement and began RSO training on this date. Summarized below are Mr. Nicholson's qualifications and training schedule, which should qualify him for the RSO position as described in Section 5.4 of the 1996 License Renewal Application and Reg. Guide 8.31.

Education

- Bachelor of Science Degree in geology, from the University of Wyoming (1972).

Health Physics Experience

- Worked as a geologist since college graduation (1972) specializing in the exploration/production of uranium and petroleum. Involved for 11 years with COGEMA's in-situ uranium projects in Wyoming.
- Served 1 year (1987) as a contractor for the DEQ Abandoned Mined Lands Division, supervising the cleanup of wind blown tailings at Shirley Basin and Gas Hills uranium mining districts in Wyoming. Duties included gridding and surveying surface plots to locate low level radioactive contamination and verify its cleanup. Also, the removal and subsequent burial of uranium ore stock pile material into restored mine pit workings.

Specialized Training

- 40 hour OSHA Hazardous Waste Site Investigation Training 29 CFR 1910.120 (April, 1990) and annual refresher training to date.
- Will receive 3 weeks (March 10-28, 2003) of formalized training in radiation safety and health physics from John Vasein, current RSO. Much of the training will be site specific and include the existing procedures.
- Scheduled for a 1 week Decontamination and Decommissioning Course (April 28 - May 2, 2003) given by Nevada Technical Associates, Inc., in addition to taking their 4 hour pre-class introductory course.

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The 4 scheduled weeks of formalized training listed above along with his past experience, should give Mr. Nicholson the knowledge to conduct surveys, calculate exposures, assign doses, and to know how hazards are generated and controlled during operations and decommissioning. Although Mr. Nicholson will not complete his RSO training until May 2, 2003, he will be supported by the following personell.

Donna Wichers, General Manager

ISL environmental and radiation safety experience for 25 years

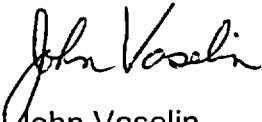
Larry Arbogast, Radiation Safety Technician

On site ISL experience for 26 years, serving as the RST for the last 2 years

In addition, COGEMA's Irigaray and Christensen Ranch sites have not been in production since 2001 and have shown very low levels of radiation exposure during groundwater restoration operations. Approximately 35, 000 lbs. U3O8 will be captured from restoration operations during 2003, however, the dryer is not scheduled to operate until early 2004, when a final approximate total of 100,000 lbs. may be dried.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

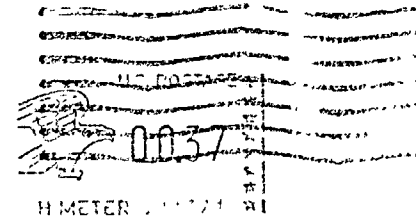
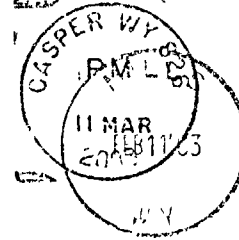


John Vaselin  
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Donna Wichers - COGEMA  
Wayne Heili - COGEMA

**A**  
**COGEMA**

COGEMA Mining, Inc. 935 Pendell Blvd, PO Box 730, Mills, WY 82644



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