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Date: 9/14/04 11:29AM
Subject: COGEMA surety acknowledgement & comments

Docket No. 40-8502

SUA-1341

TAC: Lu0060

The NRC staff has begun review of the COGEMA Mining Inc. 2004 surety estimate dated August 17, 2004. Please respond to the attached comments within 30 days so that our review can be completed before the end of November. Additional information may be requested when the review is completed.

CC: Betty Garrett; Rww

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COMMENTS ON THE 2004 SURETY ESTIMATE FOR
COGEMA MINING INC.

The Consumer Price Index used by COGEMA to calculate the inflation rate was September 2003. COGEMA should use August 2003 since many costs were obtained between January and July of 2003 (see submittal of August 18, 2003) for last year's surety update.

Worksheet 1 is missing, please provide.

The "Discussion of Assumptions" incorrectly indicates that Worksheets 2, 3, 4, and 6 were changed to reflect increased transportation costs. Transportation costs corrections were only needed for the second page of Worksheet 7 (spill cleanup), as the other Worksheets were corrected in the COGEMA submittal of January 22, 2004.

To simplify the review, the staff suggests submittal of a revised "Discussion of Assumptions" listing only the changes made to the worksheets since the submittal dated January 22, 2004.

According to Appendix C of NUREG-1569, the project management and administrative costs should be itemized. Clearly identify justified costs for activities such as quality control, radiological safety, and preparation of the final status survey report. Also, the guidance indicates that the 15 percent contingency should be applied to the total cost estimate.