

November 26, 2004

Orval and Antonia Baird  
P.O. Box 87  
Tendoy, ID 83468

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF UNAVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES TO CONDUCT  
REMEDATION ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE SALMON RIVER  
URANIUM DEVELOPMENT MILL SITE

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Baird:

On July 7, 2003, Mrs. Antonia Baird sent a letter to Mr. Robert Evans, regional inspector for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), explaining your financial situation at that time. The message conveyed by the letter is that you did not have financial resources to conduct remediation activities at the former Salmon River Uranium Development, Inc., (SRUD) mill site located near North Fork, Idaho.

Based on this information, the NRC and its contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) conducted a scoping survey during October 2003, in order to assess the extent of radioactive contamination at your facility. The results of this scoping survey were mailed to you earlier this year. Please be aware that the scoping survey conducted by NRC and ORISE at your facility in early October 2003, was intended to assess the general level of contamination at the property and does not represent a formal, detailed, radiological characterization of the site.

Your letter to Mr. Evans did not provide any information about your future plans for the property. In addition, during the NRC/ORISE scoping survey last October 2003, Mr. Evans noted that you were storing five containers with liquid thorium. However, during the State of Idaho's visit in January 1998, the State identified seven containers with liquid thorium. The location of two containers of liquid thorium appears to be unaccounted for.

Our January 20, 2004, letter stated that the NRC would contact you about the next steps that need to be taken to address remediation of the site to comply with the unrestricted release decommissioning requirements in 10 CFR Part 20 Subpart E. In order to complete our assessment and determine what those steps should be, the NRC would appreciate if you would provide the following information in writing within 30 days from the date you receive this letter:

- a) Your future plans for the SRUD site;
- b) Your current financial status (i.e., income, savings, debts). Your July 7, 2003, letter to Mr. Evans stated that you were willing to send us this information; and

- c) A confirmation of the number of jugs containing liquid thorium product that was produced and the whereabouts of these containers.

As a reminder, you are requested to refrain from beginning decommissioning or disposing of radioactive waste without prior NRC notification and approval. In addition, please be aware that if we do not receive an adequate response within the specified time frame, a more formal approach will be pursued, which could include NRC licensing the site.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Rafael L. Rodriguez, Project Manager, at (301) 415-0193 or myself at (301) 415-7234. Please note that Rafael L. Rodriguez has been assigned project management oversight of the facility because the former project manager, Eric Pogue, has left the Agency.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and your response (if any) will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). If you believe that some of the information you will send us should not be placed in the PDR because it contains personal privacy information, please identify in your response the information that you wish to be withheld. To ensure that the reader understands your request, please mark the top of the first page of each document and the top of each page containing such information with a statement substantially similar to this: "Withhold from public disclosure under 10 CFR 2.390." This will indicate the page contains information you seek to have withheld. Such information could include but it is not limited to, for example, your home address, your social security number, your home phone number, and your tax returns.

ADAMS is accessible for the NRC's public website at the following address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Please note that on October 25, 2004, the NRC terminated public access to ADAMS and initiated an additional security review of publicly available documents to ensure that potentially sensitive information is removed from the ADAMS database accessible through the NRC's web site. Interested members of the public may obtain copies of the referenced documents for review and/or copying by contacting the PDR pending resumption of public access to ADAMS. The

O. & M. Baird

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NRC PDR is located at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD, and can be contacted at the following phone number (800) 397-4209.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Daniel M. Gillen, Deputy Director  
Decommissioning Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-03400

License Nos.: R-230 (expired), P-4001 (expired)

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O. & M. Baird

cc:

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