



December 20, 2004

License SUA -1341
Docket 40-8502

Mr. Gary Janosko Chief,
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Mail Stop T-8A33
Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD. 20852

Please docket

RE: RSO Training Completion.

Dear Mr. Janosko:

As stated in the letter from Susan Frant on 4/16/03, (copy attached) it was required that I attend and pass four (4) weeks of specialized health physics classroom training to fully qualify for the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) position at the Christensen Ranch and Irigaray Mine Sites. This prerequisite has been fulfilled as of 10/29/04 with the completion of the RSO class at Madison WI. by *Engelhart & Assoc.* This training, in addition to the *Nevada Tech. - Decontamination & Decommissioning Class* (4/28 - 5/2/03), and RSO Course (9/15 - 9/19/03), and the *Nuclear Plant Journal*, eight (8) week Internet class on Radiation Fundamentals completed on 12/3/03 provides the required instruction. Attached are certificates of completion for all the above mentioned classroom studies.

Should you require any additional information regarding this subject please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Tom Nicholson
Environmental Specialist/RSO

Attachments: Certificates of Completion.

CC: M. Taylor WDEQ-Project Manager
E. Brummett NRC - Project Manger
J. Whitten NRC - Region IV Chief
D. Wichers COGEMA - General Manager

J: jmv\wp\2004rpt\nrc\RSO_Training.wpd

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

CC: WWIT
TGN

April 16, 2003

Ms. Donna L. Wichers,
General Manager
COGEMA Mining, Incorporated
P.O. Box 730
Mills, WY 82644

SUBJECT: CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF NEW RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER
(DOCKET # 40-8502) SUA-1341

Dear Ms. Wichers:

By letter dated March 10, 2003, COGEMA Mining, Inc. (COGEMA) provided information on the new employee intended to replace the current Radiation Safety Officer (RSO), John Vaslin, for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* Leach Uranium Projects, on April 1, 2003. The letter listed specialized training and knowledge for this employee, Mr. Tom Nicholson, that did not meet the recommendations in Regulatory Guide 3.31 for an RSO, as required by License Condition 9.12 in SUA-1341. His one year of experience remediating uranium mill tailings was in 1987. Although the letter indicated that the new employee was being trained for 3 weeks by the current RSO, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff determined that the required 4 weeks of specialized classroom training in health physics applicable to uranium recovery and a thorough knowledge of the proper use and application of all health physics equipment used in the uranium recovery facility, were not demonstrated.

During a phone conversation with John Vaslin on March 20, 2003, he stated that the new employee would take an RSO class in the fall and that several NRC-approved RSOs are available to Mr. Nicholson for consultation. After discussion with NRC Region IV staff, I have determined that, considering the minimal activity at the sites, Mr. Nicholson is approved as the RSO, conditional to his consulting a qualified RSO as needed, and passing the RSO class. Of course, the yellowcake dryer cannot be operated without a qualified RSO on site.

If you have any questions, contact Elaine Brummett, the NRC project manager for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch facilities, at (301) 415-6606 or by e-mail to esb@nrc.gov.

D. Wichers

2

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically 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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,



Susan M. Frant, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No: 40-8502
SUA-1341

cc: G. Mooney, WDEQ - District III

Tom Nicholson

has successfully completed the Technical Short Course entitled

Decontamination and Decommissioning

April 28 - May 2, 2003

Presented in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 2nd day of May 2003

By Nevada Technical Associates, Inc.

Robert J. Holloway
Robert Holloway, Ph. D.
Course Coordinator

Tom Nicholson

has successfully completed the Technical Short Course entitled

Radiation Safety Officer

September 15 - 19, 2003

Presented in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 19th day of September 2003

By Nevada Technical Associates, Inc.

Robert Holloway

Robert Holloway, Ph.D
Course Coordinator

This certificate acknowledges that

Tom Nicholson

*has successfully completed all required
assignments and assessments of
the Radiation Fundamentals (Radiation-101)
course offered by
Nuclear Plant Journal.*

N. K. Agnihotri

Signed December 3, 2003 by

Course Instructor N. K. Agnihotri, P.E.

Senior Editor & Publisher, Nuclear Plant Journal

**Nuclear
Plant
Journal**

An International Publication
Published in the United States

Certificate of Completion

awarded to

Tom Nicholson

for participation in
Radiation Safety Officer Course
October 25-29, 2004 - Madison, WI
presented by Engelhardt & Associates, Inc.

Susan Engelhardt
Susan J. Engelhardt, M.S.

Dee Kaiser
Dee Ann Kaiser, M.S.

Ralph Grunewald
Ralph Grunewald, Ph.D.

Judith Grunewald
Judith Grunewald, R.N., M.S.

Joshua Walkowicz
Joshua Walkowicz, M.S., CHP