

January 14, 2005

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

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MR. NICHOLSON AS RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER

Dear Ms. Wichers:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the letter (and attachments) dated December 20, 2004, from Mr. Tom Nicholson of your staff. This letter was submitted in response to our letter dated April 16, 2003, that approved of Mr. Nicholson acting as Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch uranium in situ leach sites in Wyoming, conditional to his consulting a qualified RSO as needed, and satisfactorily completing an RSO class.

The attachments demonstrate that Mr. Nicholson completed one RSO class in September 2003, and another RSO class in October 2004, in addition to a class on decontamination and decommissioning. Therefore, we have determined that Mr. Nicholson meets the recommendations in Regulatory Guide 3.31 for an RSO, as required by Condition 9.12 in source material license SUA-1341.

If you have any questions or comments, 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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in NRC Public Document Room or 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).

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site. Interested members of the public may obtain copies of the referenced documents for review and/or copying by contacting the Public Document Room pending resumption of public access to ADAMS. The NRC Public Document Room is located at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD, and can be contacted at (800) 397-4209 or (301) 415-4737 or pdr@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary S. Janosko, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8502
License No.: SUA-1341

cc: G. Mooney, WDEQ - District III

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* See previous concurrence

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