

From: Stephen Cohen
To: Oscar Paulson
Date: 6/16/05 11:23AM
Subject: Re: Catchment Basin

Oscar: 40-8584

Below are the responses to your questions regarding the amended license, as discussed with you on June 2, 2005. For ease of reference, the original questions are presented below followed by the respective answers in bold.

1. Initiation of Aquifer Pumpback Around the Catchment Basin

The Environmental Assessment states, "After completing the soil excavation program, contaminated ground water will be extracted and conveyed to the lined tailings impoundment".

I was under the understanding that aquifer pumpback could commence upon receipt of the amended license which included aquifer pumpback around the Catchment Basin.

Response: Kennecott may proceed with ground-water extraction operations upon receipt of the amended license.

2. Background

Proposed License Condition 11.3 states, "...with background being recognized in well TMW-5...". As of May 28, 1998 (the date of the agency's approval letter for the Addendum to the Revised Environmental Report, Background Ground Water Quality and Detection Standards - January 1996) background has been the values set forth in the Addendum to the Revised Environmental Report, Background Ground Water Quality and Detection Standards - January 1996 and not based upon any single well.

Response: License condition 11.3 will be amended to delete the reference to background being recognized as TMW-5. Instead background will be recognized as the values set forth in the Addendum to the Revised Environmental Report.

3. Excavation Completion

In speaking about backfilling the Environmental Assessment states, " ...source of clean fill to an elevation above the surrounding ground surface to form a slight mound." This was originally considered if resumption of operations at the site was not imminent however with changes in the uranium market construction of a new catchment Basin upon completion of the excavation would be considered.

Response: Kennecott may install a new catchment basin per license condition 9.3 in the location of the existing basin after verification of the soil reclamation project has been completed.

4. Notification

License Condition 9.10 states, "The NRC shall be notified and detailed SOPs for decommissioning (land and buildings) shall be available for review at least three (3) months before decommissioning begins. I interpret this statement to mean that three (3) month notification will not be required for excavation to begin around the Catchment Basin since it is not site decommissioning nor does it involve decommissioning of buildings. Is this interpretation correct?

Response: NRC staff responded to this question via e-mail dated June 6, 2005.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me.

Sincerely,

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