



40-8502

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

June 30, 1998

COGEMA Mining, Inc.
ATTN: Donna L. Wichers, Manager
ISL Environmental and Regulatory Services
935 Pendell Boulevard
P.O. Box 730
Mills, WY 82844

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE SUA -1341 FOR THE
IRIGARAY/CHRISTENSEN RANCH ISL FACILITY

Dear Ms. Wichers:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of COGEMA Mining, Inc.'s (COGEMA) license renewal application for Source Material License SUA-1341, as submitted by letter dated January 5, 1998. Additional supplements and revisions to the renewal application were provided by letters dated December 13, 1996, and September 3, 1997.

The NRC staff determined, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.25, that preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) was necessary to document its review. The NRC staff issued an EA (Enclosure 1) to the public document file on June 18, 1998. Based on its analysis, the NRC staff concluded that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed license action (i.e., renewal of SUA-1341) were not significant and that the proposed action was acceptable. A final finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was prepared in accordance with 10 CFR 51.32, and, on June 28, 1998, published in the Federal Register (Enclosure 2), providing notice of: (1) the NRC's intent to issue the proposed license amendment, (2) the availability of the EA to the public, and (3) an opportunity for hearing for affected individuals.

The NRC staff also reviewed COGEMA's license renewal application for compliance with the requirements under 10 CFR Parts 20 and 40 and prepared a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) to document its review. A copy of the SER is provided as Enclosure 3. Upon completion of the safety review, the NRC staff concludes that the continuation of commercial operations at the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch facilities, in accordance with specified license conditions, is protective of the public health and safety and fulfills the requirements of 10 CFR Parts 20 and 40.

Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 40, Source Material License SUA-1341, is hereby issued for the continued commercial operations at the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch Uranium ISL Facility. The renewal license is provided as Enclosure 4. With this licensing action, the NRC staff will be authorizing continued operations under the Performance-Based License Condition format. The license has been renewed for a 10-year term.

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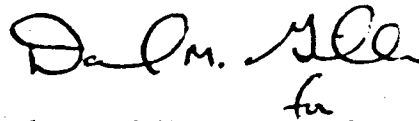
D. Wichers

- 2 -

In preparing the renewed license, NRC has also considered and addressed several additional issues and requests for amendments that COGEMA has made since the renewal request was submitted. Thus, in response to those communications, NRC has simplified and standardized the spill and incident reporting requirements that were in the existing license; has approved the general restoration plan, which resolves questions COGEMA has had about the appropriateness of proceeding with early restoration activities; and has reflected acceptance of COGEMA's efforts to use a new injection zone, the Lance formation for the two deep disposal wells, as part of the larger renewal action.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosures, please contact Janet Lambert at (301) 415-6710.

Sincerely,



for
Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8502
License No. SUA-1341
Cases Closed: L51221, L51444
L51476, L51581, L52597

Enclosures: As stated (4)

cc: w/o enclosures:
G. Cash, WDEQ-LQD
G. Mooney, WDEQ-LQD
R. Poyser, COGEMA

June 30, 1998

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[D. Gillen for]

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