



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 29, 2000

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LAND QUALITY DIV.
DIST. II

Mr. William Salisbury, President
American Nuclear Corporation
P.O. Box 2713
Casper, Wyoming 82602

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUSPEND EFFLUENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
AT AMERICAN NUCLEAR CORPORATION GAS HILLS, WYOMING, SITE

Dear Mr. Salisbury:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has evaluated the request, in American Nuclear Corporation's (ANC's) letter dated November 26, 2000, to delete License Condition (LC) No. 13 of Source Material License SUA-667, concerning effluent and environmental monitoring at the Gas Hills, Wyoming, site. The request notes that quarterly data collected since the first quarter of 1997 exhibits essentially analytical variation in the absence of any construction activities (construction of the final cover on Pond #2 was completed in June 1997).

The staff agrees that the site effluent and environmental monitoring data exhibits stability and that such monitoring, in the absence of renewed construction activities at the site, is unnecessary to protect public health and safety and the environment. On this basis, the staff agrees to suspend, as of December 31, 2000, the requirements of LC No. 13, until three months prior to resumption of construction activities at the site. No amendment to License SUA-667 is required since LC No. 13 will eventually be reinstated.

During the suspension of LC No. 13, a monthly visual inspection of the site will be required, to determine if any erosion has occurred which could uncover or allow dispersion of tailings material such that the public or environment could be exposed. Records of such inspections should be retained, and the NRC notified immediately if erosion occurs which could reasonably lead to uncovering of tailings.

December 29, 2000

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ken Hooks, the NRC Project Manager for the ANC Gas Hills site, at (301) 415-7777 or by e-mail to krh1@nrc.gov.

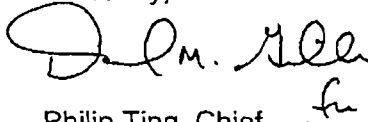
In accordance with 10CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC PUBLIC Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electron Reading Room).

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DIST. II**

Sincerely,



Philip Ting, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-4492
License No. SUA-667

cc: Arthur Kleinrath, DOE Grand Junction
Rick Chancellor, WDEQ, Cheyenne WY
✓ Mark Moxley, WDEQ, Lander, WY