

May 29, 2009

Mr. Scott Surovchak, Site Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Grand Junction Office  
2597 B3/4 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE PLAN FOR THE GAS HILLS NORTH UMTRCA TITLE II DISPOSAL SITE, FREMONT COUNTY, WYOMING

Dear Mr. Surovchak:

By letter dated January 29, 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted the draft Long-Term Surveillance Plan (LTSP) for the Gas Hills North UMTRCA Title II disposal site in Fremont County, Wyoming, for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review. DOE also mentioned in the letter that final NRC concurrence to this LTSP is not expected until the following missing information is inserted into Appendix A of the document: the warrantee deed, the Public Land Order Notice of Permanent Withdrawal as posted in the Federal Register, the Bureau of Land Management right-of-way permit for site access, and the legal description.

The staff has completed its review of the draft LTSP as documented in the Technical Evaluation Report (TER) (enclosed). As noted in the TER, the staff has several recommendations for the draft Gas Hills North LTSP related to the planned groundwater monitoring program. The staff recommends that the constituents beryllium, cadmium, arsenic, chromium, and thorium-230 should be added to the monitoring program if the proposed analytes are detected over the Alternate Concentration Limits and other applied water quality standards. The staff also recommends that the DOE Annual Inspection Report include a table containing historical groundwater monitoring data, in addition to graphs of water quality over time at the Point of Compliance wells. This helps inspectors to determine future water quality changes relative to these baselines. Lastly, as part of the land use monitoring, it is recommended that DOE check the records at the Wyoming State Engineer's Office at least once every 10 years to determine if there have been significant changes in water demands in the vicinity of the Gas Hills North disposal site. The rationale for these recommendations is provided in the TER.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ted Carter, the Project Manager for the Gas Hills North (Lucky Mc) site, at (301) 415-5543 or by email to [Ted.Carter@nrc.gov](mailto:Ted.Carter@nrc.gov).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 component of NRC's Agency wide Documents Access and Management 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,

**/RA/**

Rebecca Tadesse, Branch Chief  
Materials Decommissioning Branch  
Decommissioning and Uranium  
Licensing Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-2259  
License No.: SUC-672

Enclosure: Technical Evaluation Report

cc: Mark Thiesse, WDEQ

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Rebecca Tadesse, Branch Chief  
Materials Decommissioning Branch  
Decommissioning and Uranium  
Licensing Directorate  
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and Environmental Protection  
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