

June 22, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Andrea L. Kock, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and
Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: Johari Moore, Project Manager **/RA/**
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and
Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
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Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: SITE VISIT TO COGEMA MINING, INC.'S IRIGARAY AND
CHRISTENSEN RANCH IN-SITU URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITIES
IN JOHNSON AND CAMPBELL COUNTIES, WYOMING

In support of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's environmental review of the COGEMA Mining, Inc. (COGEMA) license renewal request, NRC staff met with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY-DEQ) on June 9, 2008, at the WY-DEQ office in Sheridan, Wyoming. On June 10, NRC, WY-DEQ and COGEMA staff met at the COGEMA In-Situ Uranium Recovery (ISR) facilities in Johnson and Campbell Counties, Wyoming for a site visit.

The following is a summary of this meeting and site visit:

June 9, 2008 – Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Sheridan, WY

Glenn Mooney, Senior Geologist, WY-DEQ
Johari Moore, Project Manager, FSME/DWMEP/ERB - US NRC
Ron Linton, Project Manager, FSME/DWMEP/URLB - US NRC

WY-DEQ has permitting responsibility for those operations at the COGEMA ISR facilities that are not regulated by the NRC. The purpose of this meeting was to share information with regard to the NRC review process of the license renewal application. Technical discussions also included findings of independent draft reports related to ISR activities, the cost of evaporation ponds when compared with deep disposal wells, and the implications of deep disposal well failure. There was also discussion of the pros and cons of applicants submitting one

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license application in the future, to be reviewed by both the NRC and WY-DEQ. There were no follow-up items. A copy of the draft Environmental Assessment will be sent to WY-DEQ for comments.

June 10, 2009 – COGEMA In-Situ Uranium Recovery Facilities, Johnson and Campbell Counties, WY site visit

Larry Arbogast, Radiation Safety Officer, Christensen Ranch Project, COGEMA
Thomas Hardgrove, Manager, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, COGEMA
Kris Thompson, Geologist, Land Quality Division, WY-DEQ
Glenn Mooney, Senior Geologist, Land Quality Division, WY-DEQ
Johari Moore, Project Manager, FSME/DWMEP/ERB - US NRC
Ron Linton, Project Manager, FSME/DWMEP/URLB - US NRC

The purpose of this site visit was to provide the NRC and WY-DEQ staff an opportunity to view, firsthand, various COGEMA ISR facility process equipment as well as the affected environment. No ISR operations took place during the site visit. While viewing a well field during the site visit, WY-DEQ and NRC staff discussed the possibility of the NRC allowing ISR licensees to leave underground piping in place after decommissioning in the future. During the site visit, lead by COGEMA, the NRC and WY-DEQ staff viewed and/or discussed the following process equipment and characteristics of the site/affected environment:

- Irigaray plant
- Christensen Ranch plant
- Injection well
- Production well
- Header house
- Ion exchange process equipment
- Yellowcake drier
- Deep disposal well
- Evaporation pond
- Willow Creek
- Powder River
- Archaeological site
- Nearest residence

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- Local ecology
- Oil production
- Coal bed methane process equipment
- Temporary re-vegetation of well fields
- Main access roads and traffic

There were no follow-up items.

Docket No.: 040-08502

License No.: SUA-1341

cc: Ron Linton

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- Oil production
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