UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL

Before Administrative Judges: Ann Marshall Young, Chair Dr. Richard F. Cole Dr. Fred W. Oliver

In the Matter of

CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC. (License Amendment for the North Trend Expansion Project)

Docket No. 40-8943 ASLBP No. 07-859-03-MLA-BD01

June 18, 2009

ORDER

(Ruling on Intervenors' Motion and Application for Stay Pending Appeal in Related License Renewal Proceeding)

Intervenors in this materials license proceeding have petitioned for a stay of this proceeding until certain appeals from a recent decision of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a related license renewal proceeding have been finally resolved.¹ As pointed out by counsel for Applicant,² however, the Commission has not yet ruled on the appeals from LBP-08-06 and LBP-09-01 filed by the parties in *this* proceeding, and any stay request is therefore premature in this proceeding.³

¹ Intervenors' Motion and Application for Stay Pending Appeal in Related License Renewal Proceeding (June 1, 2009) [hereinafter Motion to Stay].

² Crow Butte Resources' Answer to Intervenors' Motion and Application for Stay Pending Appeal in Related License Renewal Proceeding (June 11, 2009) at 4.

³ Nor do many of Intervenors' arguments bear close logical scrutiny in light of the fact that the Commission has not at this point ruled on appeals from the Board's rulings in LBP-08-06 and LBP-09-01. *See*, *e.g.*, Intervenors' statement that "the mandatory disclosures will now be limited to those excluding the foreign ownership issue." Motion to Stay at 2. Although some of the contentions originally admitted in the license renewal proceeding were similar to those admitted in this proceeding, they were not identical nor were they admitted on identical grounds, and the Commission will not necessarily make identical rulings on the pending appeals in this proceeding. After the Commission has issued its rulings, the Licensing Board will convene a telephone conference to address the future course of this proceeding.

Moreover, as Staff counsel points out, the primary harm asserted in Intervenors' motion is essentially in the nature of wasted litigation resources, and the Commission has stated that "litigation expense, even substantial and unrecoupable cost, does not constitute irreparable injury" — which is the "most significant factor in deciding whether to grant a stay request." Intervenors' Motion is therefore DENIED.

It is so ORDERED.

THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

_____/RA/_ Ann Marshall Young, Chair ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Rockville, Maryland June 18, 2009⁵

⁴ Metropolitan Edison Co. (Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1), CLI-84-17, 20 NRC 801, 804 (1984); see NRC Staff Response to Intervenors' Motion and Application for Stay Pending Appeal in related License Renewal Proceeding (June 11, 2009) at 3, and authorities cited therein.

⁵ Copies of this Order were sent this date by the agency's E-filing system to counsel for all parties in the above-referenced proceeding.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of)
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.) Docket No. 40-8943-MLA
In-situ leach Uranium Recovery Facility, Crawford, Nebraska)))
(License Amendment for the North Trend Expansion Area)))

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing ORDER (RULING ON INTERVENORS' MOTION AND APPLICATION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL IN RELATED LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION) have been served upon the following persons by Electronic Information Exchange.

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Docket No. 40-8943-MLA ORDER (RULING ON INTERVENORS' MOTION AND APPLICATION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL IN RELATED LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION)

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ORDER (RULING ON INTERVENORS' MOTION AND APPLICATION FOR STAY
PENDING APPEAL IN RELATED LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION)

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Hearing Docket

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[Original signed by Nancy Greathead]

Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 18thday of June 2009