

**CAMECO RESOURCES
CROW BUTTE OPERATION**



**86 Crow Butte Road
P.O. Box 169
Crawford, Nebraska 69339-0169**

**(308) 665-2215
(308) 665-2341 – FAX**

August 19, 2009

Mr. Keith I. McConnell, Deputy Director
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T8-F5
Washington D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Self reporting of license violation;
Failure to meet 5-year Mechanical Integrity Testing
USNRS Source Materials License SUA-1534

Dear Mr. McConnell:

On August 5, 2009, the Wellfield Operations Foreman was replacing well boxes that had been blown over during a thunderstorm the previous evening. He found a cased well labeled I-619 to be without the protective well box covering. The well box for I-619 was located approximately 150 feet away. When he went to move the box marked I-619, he found that the box was covering an abandoned well thought to be I-619. This well was abandoned on July 22, 2009. Further investigation determined that the abandoned well was in fact CM 1-9. Because of the misplaced well box, CM1-9 had been mistaken for I-619, and as such had been Mechanical Integrity Tested (MIT) on July 14, 2009 and then subsequently abandoned. CM 1-9 is an old Mine Unit 1 monitor well that is no longer sampled. The five year MIT due date for I-619 was July 20, 2009. Because of the mistaken identity, I-619 was not MIT tested until August 5, 2009. Therefore I-619 is 16 days past its due date. This constitutes a violation of USNRC Source Materials License SUA-1534, License Condition 10.2. This event was reported to Mr. Ronald Burrows via email on August 6, 2009.

Upon discovery of this error, MIT personnel were dispatched to test I-619. The well successfully passed the MIT test. CBO records show that I-619 had not been in operation since January 2003, and therefore had not been in service since its prior five year MIT test in July 2004. A copy of the MIT test report is attached.

To ensure that a similar incident does not occur, CBO is currently using GPS equipment to locate each well on site and ensure that all well covers are placed on the correct well. As this



is completed, a metal tag stamped with the well number will be permanently affixed to each well. Additionally, MIT technicians have been instructed to positively identify each well before MIT testing is performed. When the identification tags have been placed on the wells, the technicians will simply be able to check the tag for positive identification of the well. In the interim, technicians will use wellfield maps to identify wells that are due for MIT testing.

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me at (308) 665-2215 ext 111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Stokey'. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Stokey
General Manager
Cameco Resources
Crow Butte Operation

Cc: Steve Collings
Ronald Burrows
Larry Teahon
CBO File



Nebraska Department
of Environmental Quality

Casing Integrity Test Report

Company: CBR Permit No: NE0122611
 Project: Crowbutte Well No: 619
 Casing Type: velomine Diameter: 4 1/2"
 Hole Depth: 770' Casing Depth: 759'
 Screened Interval(s): 729'-737'
 Depth to K-packer: 703' Depth to Test Packer(s) Top - Ground Level
Bottom - 693'
 Comments: _____

TIME	ELAPSED TIME (Min)	PRESSURE (PSIG)
2:30	0	125
2:35	5	123
2:40	10	120
2:45	15	117
2:50	20	115

Test Performed By: [Signature]
 Date: 8-5-09
 Calibration Performed By: [Signature]
 Date: 8-3-09

CERTIFICATION

I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this application and all attachments and that, based on inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining information, I believe the information is true, accurate, and complete. Further, I certify awareness that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of a fine and imprisonment.

By Wade Beins
PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING

Senior Geologist
TITLE

By [Signature]
SIGNATURE

8-5-09
DATE