



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

November 6, 2009

Mr. Thomas Hardgrove, Manager
Environmental and Regulatory Affairs
COGEMA Mining, Inc.
P. O. Box 730
Mills, Wyoming 82644-0730

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 040-08502/2009-01

Dear Mr. Hardgrove:

This refers to the announced routine inspection conducted on September 30 and October 1, 2009, at the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch uranium recovery facilities. This inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selected examination of procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. A preliminary exit briefing was held at the conclusion of the on site inspection. The final exit briefing was conducted with you via telephone on October 6, 2009. No violations were identified, and no response to this letter is required.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the public without redaction.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact Mr. Robert Evans at 817-860-8234 or the undersigned at (817) 860-8197.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack E. Whitten, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

Docket: 040-08502
License: SUA-1341

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report 040-08502/2009-001

cc w/enclosure:

Mr. Carl Anderson, Administrator
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Solid and Hazardous Waste Division
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Mark Rogaczewski, District III Supervisor
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division
1866 South Sheridan Ave.
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Wyoming Radiation Control Program Director

bcc w/enclosure (via e-mail):

- Art Howell, D:DNMS
- Chuck Cain, DD:DNMS
- Jack Whitten, C:NMSB-B
- Linda Gersey, NMSB-B
- Robert Evans, NMSB-B
- Ron Linton, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD
- Richard Chang, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD
- Kimberly Conway, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD
- William VonTill, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD
- Fee Coordinator, DRMA, RIV

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| Publicly Avail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Sensitive Value: | | |
| RIV:DNMS:NMSB-B | DNMS:NMSB-B | C:NMSB-B | | |
| L. Gersey | R. Evans | J. Whitten | | |
| <i>/RA/</i> | <i>/RA/</i> | <i>/RA/</i> | | |
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket: 040-08502

License: SUA-1341

Report: 040-08502/2009-001

Licensee: COGEMA Mining, Inc.

Facilities: Irigaray/Christensen Ranch In-Situ Leach Facilities

Location: Johnson and Campbell Counties, Wyoming

Dates: September 30 and October 1, 2009

Inspectors: Robert J. Evans, PE, CHP, Senior Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

Linda M. Gersey, Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

Accompanied by: Ron Linton, Hydrogeologist, Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

Richard Chang, Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

Kimberly Conway, Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

Approved By: Jack E. Whitten, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch B

Attachment: Supplementary Information

ENCLOSURE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Irigaray and Christensen Ranch In-Situ Leach Facilities NRC Inspection Report 040-08502/2009-001

This inspection included a review of site status, management organization and controls, operations review and in-situ leach facilities, radiation protection, effluent control and environmental protection, transportation of radioactive material, and radioactive waste management. Overall, the licensee was operating the facility in a safe and effective manner.

Management Organization and Controls

- The licensee had sufficient staffing for the type and scope of work in progress at the facility. The licensee had appropriate procedures for the work in progress, and the licensee had performed the required management audits (Section 1).

In-situ Leach Facilities

- The licensee was found to be conducting site operations in accordance with license requirements. No health or safety issue was identified during the site tours (Section 2).
- One previously cited violation related to the licensee's exceedance of the annual production limit was closed (Section 2.2b).

Radiation Protection

- The licensee had implemented a radiation protection program that met the requirements established in 10 CFR Part 20 and the conditions of the license. Occupational exposures were well below the regulatory limits (Section 3.2a).

Effluent Control and Environmental Protection

- The licensee conducted effluent and environmental monitoring in accordance with license requirements. The sample results were less than the regulatory limits. Public doses were below the annual limit specified in regulations (Section 4).

Inspection of Transportation Activities and Radioactive Waste Management

- The licensee was conducting transportation of radioactive waste activities in accordance with license and regulatory requirements (Section 5).
- One previous violation related to failure to have a valid waste disposal agreement as required by License Condition 9.7 was closed (Section 5.2b).

Report Details

Site Status

The license was originally issued during August 1978. The facility currently includes a main processing plant and a satellite facility. The central processing plant is located at the Irigaray site, while Christensen Ranch is a satellite facility for the Irigaray plant. The plant operated intermittently until June 2000. During June 2000, the licensee suspended all mining activities.

The licensee submitted a decommissioning plan to the NRC for both facilities during 2000. The decommissioning plan was approved by the NRC on December 31, 2001. At that time, the licensee commenced with decommissioning, including groundwater restoration. However, during April 2007, the licensee requested an amendment to the license to return to an operating status. The NRC subsequently approved the licensee's request by license amendment dated September 30, 2008.

Since the June 2007 inspection, the licensee completed the plugging and abandonment of most wells at the Irigaray site. The licensee also removed wellfield pipeline material at Irigaray and disposed of the waste material at an authorized disposal site in Wyoming. The licensee completed groundwater restoration activities at Christensen Ranch mine units 2-6 and submitted a Wellfield Restoration Report dated April 8, 2008 to the NRC for review and approval. The NRC has requested additional information be provided for the Wellfield Restoration Report in a letter dated February 19, 2009. The licensee has not responded to the request at this time. The licensee plans to complete the surface restoration work after the NRC has approved the subsurface restoration data.

At the time of this inspection, the licensee was conducting pre-startup construction work at both facilities. At the Irigaray site, the filter press was being rebuilt, tanks were being refurbished, floors cracks were being repaired, and floor sumps were being resealed. Also, a second elution circuit was being constructed. At the Christensen Ranch satellite facility, the main process pumps still have to be reinstalled, and the soda ash system has to be rebuilt. Most other components were ready for operations pending the completion of minor maintenance activities.

In anticipation of plant startup, the licensee began implementing operations-related environmental monitoring during October 2008. When the plant resumes operation, the first mine unit that will be placed into service will be Christensen Ranch mine unit 7. At the time of the inspection, the wellfield data package for this mine unit was being reviewed by the State of Wyoming. The construction of the mine unit was approximately half complete. The monitor well ring and some of the main trunk lines had been installed. In the near future, the licensee plans to develop Christensen Ranch mine units 8-9. Future wellfields may include Christensen Ranch mine units 10-12.

By letter dated September 18, 2009, the licensee requested a change in ownership of COGEMA Mining to Uranium One Exploration USA. The NRC was still reviewing this transfer of license request during the inspection. Review of the licensee's request is expected to be completed in the near future.

1 Management Organization and Controls (88005)

1.1 Inspection Scope

Ensure that the licensee had sufficient staffing for the current operations, had appropriate procedures for routine work, and had performed the required management audits.

1.2 Findings and Observations

At the time of the inspection, the licensee had an onsite staff of 11 full time employees. The employees included an operations manager, lab manager, plant operations manager, maintenance staff, and one staff member who assisted the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). The onsite organizational structure agreed with the licensee's organization chart dated May 5, 2004.

Since the previous inspection, the licensee had not held any Safety and Environmental Review Panel meetings or made any changes to its license that would require a formal review as required under License Condition 9.4.

License Condition (LC) 9.6 requires, in part, that standard operating procedures (SOPs) be established and followed for all operational process activities involving radioactive materials. Additionally, all written procedures will be approved in writing and reviewed annually by the RSO. The inspectors noted that the RSO had conducted the annual review of SOPs for calendar years (CYs) 2007 through 2009. Procedures for environmental monitoring, a program that was restarted during October 2008, were observed by the inspectors to have been reviewed and fully implemented.

License Condition 12.6, requires, in part, that the licensee conduct an annual as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA) audit of the radiation safety program and submit it to the NRC on an annual basis. The inspectors reviewed the ALARA audits for CYs 2007 and 2008. Both audits were found to be thorough and comprehensive. No negative trends or items of concern were identified by the licensee in the audits.

The licensee has a radiation safety training program in place which meets the provisions of Section 5.5 of the license application. Training plans and records, including quarterly refresher training records, for CY 2007 through the date of this inspection and were reviewed by the inspectors and found to be acceptable.

In accordance with LC 10.18, the licensee had a respiratory protection program in place. The inspectors reviewed employee respiratory protection training and testing records and found them to be acceptable. Additionally, the inspectors reviewed the qualification records of the RSO and concluded that these qualifications were in compliance with LC 9.12 requirements.

1.3 Conclusions

The licensee had sufficient staffing for the type and scope of work in progress at the facility. The licensee had appropriate procedures for the work in progress, and the licensee had performed the required management audits.

2 In-Situ Leach Facilities (89001)

2.1 Inspection Scope

Determine if operations were being conducted in accordance with regulatory and license requirements.

2.2 Findings and Observations

a. Site Tours

The inspectors conducted several site tours during the inspection. Site buildings, equipment, fences, and gates were observed. Site perimeter postings, required by LC 9.11, were noted by the inspectors to be in place at all entrances to the site. No significant health or safety concerns were identified during the tours.

During the site tours, the inspectors discussed the licensee's future operational plans for the two facilities. Operations at Christensen Ranch will consist of injection of lixiviant into the mine unit, extraction of uranium from the ore body, and recovery of the uranium from the solution in an ion exchange process. As noted earlier, the licensee plans to commence mining in Christensen Ranch mine unit 7. Operations at Irigaray will consist of elution of the ion exchange resins from the Christensen Ranch satellite facility as well as uranium precipitation, yellowcake dewatering and drying, and yellowcake packaging and shipping. The licensee estimated that it would need about 40 employees for full operation, plus the contractors for well installation activities.

The inspectors also toured the various ponds located at the two sites. At Christensen Ranch, the licensee had four lined and one unlined ponds. At Irigaray, the licensee had two lined and four unlined ponds. Radon sampling was in progress at the ponds at the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The licensee had about 90 radon detectors strategically located around the ponds. The licensee was collecting data about radon emanation from its evaporation ponds for future review by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The inspectors performed independent radiological surveys using an NRC-issued Ludlum Model 19 microRoentgen meter (NRC No. 015544 with a calibration due date of 04/04/10). Ambient gamma exposure rate readings averaged 12-15 microRoentgens per hour ($\mu\text{R/hr}$) at both the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch sites. At Christensen Ranch, the highest exposure rate was identified near the ion exchange columns at 175 $\mu\text{R/hr}$. At Irigaray, the highest exposure rate was identified at the precipitation tanks at 3,800 $\mu\text{R/hr}$. No radiation areas, areas in excess of 5,000 $\mu\text{R/hr}$, were identified by the inspectors during the site tours.

License Condition 10.7 allows the licensee to dispose of liquids in four deep disposal wells, however only two have been completed. At the time of the inspection, both wells were operable but neither was in service. Routine injection activities were suspended during May 2005 after completion of aquifer restoration activities at the Christensen Ranch facility. The licensee may elect to use these deep disposal wells, as allowed by the license, at a later date.

- b. (Closed) Violation 040-08502/0701-01: Exceedance of the annual production limit for yellowcake

License Condition 10.5 authorizes the licensee to produce no more than 50,000 pounds of yellowcake per year. During the previous inspection, the inspectors noted that the licensee exceeded the annual limit during CY 2005 when a total of 178,274 pounds of yellowcake was produced. Exceeding the annual yellowcake production limit was identified as a violation of LC 10.5.

By letter dated August 20, 2007, the licensee acknowledged the violation but questioned the definition of production. The licensee considered production as the accumulation of uranium in the precipitation circuit versus the drying and barreling process. Since the violation was cited, the NRC amended the license to increase the annual production limit to 2.5 million pounds per year. In addition, the NRC clarified the language in the license to ensure that production meant dried yellowcake, not collection of uranium in the precipitation circuit. Based on the licensee's records and interviews with site personnel, no yellowcake has been captured in the precipitation circuit or dried in the onsite dryer since the last inspection.

2.3 Conclusions

The licensee was found to be conducting site operations in accordance with license requirements. No health or safety issue was identified during the site tours. One previously cited violation related to the licensee's exceedance of the annual production limit was closed.

3 Radiation Protection (83822)

3.1 Inspection Scope

Ensure the licensee's radiation protection program was in compliance with requirements established in the license and 10 CFR Part 20 regulations.

3.2 Findings and Observations

a. Personnel Exposures

The inspectors reviewed personnel exposure data for CY 2007 through the second quarter of 2009. Occupational exposures consisted of a combination of internal and external doses. Since 2007, up to twelve workers at any time wore dosimeters, and the highest annual deep dose equivalent exposure was 13 millirems. The highest annual internal dose assigned to an employee since 2007 was 14.6 millirems. The highest total effective dose equivalent for 2007 was 20 millirems, while the highest total effective dose equivalent exposure for 2008 was 5 millirems. These doses were significantly below the annual regulatory limit of 5,000 millirems.

License Condition 10.10 requires, in part, monthly air sampling of airborne uranium particulate and radon progeny. The inspectors reviewed the air sampling data for CY 2007 through August of 2009. The highest measured airborne uranium particulate during this time frame was found to be 1.6 E-11 microcuries per milliliter which is 13% of

the licensee's action level. The highest measured radon progeny for the reviewed time period was 0.03 working levels, which is less than the licensee's action level of 0.08 working levels. Airborne uranium sampling conducted under radiation work permits (RWPs) contributed a small percentage of several employees' annual radiation exposures.

b. Decommissioning Activities

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 40.36(f)(1), decommissioning records are required to be permanently maintained, including a description of the restricted area, spills, and any unusual events. The inspectors noted that the licensee had maintained these records in onsite files.

c. Personal and Equipment Contamination Monitoring

License Condition 10.11 states, in part, that employees shall monitor themselves with an alpha survey instrument prior to exiting the site restricted areas. These surveys are conducted to detect contamination of skin and personnel clothing. The inspectors randomly reviewed the records for CYs 2007 through August 2009. The records indicate that no individual left the site with contamination greater than the action level.

License Condition 9.8 stipulates, in part, that the release of equipment or packages from the restricted area shall be in accordance with guidance document entitled, "Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct or Source Materials." The licensee's equipment release records were reviewed for CYs 2007 through August 2009. The licensee maintained records of releases of vehicles and equipment. The records indicate that nothing was released with surface contamination greater than the release limits.

Licensee procedures require that all radiation survey instruments be operationally checked before each use. The radiation detection equipment in service at the plant sites were observed by the inspectors for operability. All radiation detection equipment used for personnel scanning and frisking were found to be properly calibrated and appeared to be fully functional. Each instrument responded accordingly when tested with a check source. Instrument calibration records were reviewed by inspectors and found to be acceptable.

In accordance with license application commitments, the licensee also conducted quarterly spot checks of individuals and vehicles leaving the site. Based on the licensee's CY 2007 through August 2009 records, no individual or vehicle exceeded the release limits.

d. Bioassay Program Review

License Condition 10.12 states, in part, that the licensee shall implement the bioassay program outlined in Regulatory Guide 8.22, "Bioassay at Uranium Mills." The licensee's CY 2007 through August 2009 monthly bioassay records were reviewed by the inspectors. All bioassay sample results were below the action level of 15 micrograms of uranium per liter of urine. No bioassay results contributed to an annual dose to any worker.

e. Radiation Surveys

The license application states that the licensee will conduct quarterly surveys for ambient gamma exposure rates. In areas where the exposure rates exceed 2 millirems per hour (mr/hr), the survey frequency shall be increased to monthly. The inspectors reviewed the licensee's CY 2007 through August 2009 records. At Irigaray, the highest measured exposure rate was identified at the plant annex precipitation tanks at 4.4 mr/hr. The licensee's most recent measurement at this location was 3.6 mr/hr, a measurement that was comparable to the NRC's measurement during the site tour (3.8 mr/hr). At Christensen Ranch, the highest measurement was obtained at the restoration plant recovery filter canisters. This measurement was 1.7 mr/hr. The restoration equipment has not been used since 2005.

Removable alpha contamination surveys were taken monthly at Irigaray and Christensen Ranch prior to October 2008. After October 1, 2008, the frequency was increased to weekly at 19 locations indicated on Figures 5.3 and 5.4 of the license application. No removable alpha contamination greater than the licensee's action limit was found in either facility.

f. Radiation Work Permits

License Condition 10.9 requires, in part, that the licensee use RWPs for all non-routine work or non-routine maintenance jobs where the potential for significant exposure to radioactive material exist and no applicable standard operating procedure exists. The inspectors reviewed RWPs that were utilized in CYs 2007 (63 RWPs), 2008 (25 RWPs), and to the date of the inspection in 2009 (26 RWPs).

Most RWPs were generated for maintenance work conducted in the yellowcake dryer room or related to refurbishing tanks and other equipment in the Irigaray central processing plant. The RWPs identified the necessary respiratory protection and air sampling requirements, when necessary, and radiation doses were calculated and added to the employee's occupational doses as appropriate.

3.3 Conclusions

The licensee had implemented a radiation protection program that met the requirements established in 10 CFR Part 20 and the conditions of the license. Occupational exposures were well below the regulatory limits.

4 Effluent Control and Environmental Protection (88045)

4.1 Inspection Scope

Determine if the environmental and effluent monitoring programs are adequate to monitor the impacts of site activities on the local environment.

4.2 Observations and Findings

a. Groundwater Monitoring Program

By letter dated April 8, 2008, the licensee submitted a wellfield restoration report for Christensen Ranch mine units 2 through 6 to the NRC. NRC staff requested additional information from the licensee by letter dated February 19, 2009. At the time of the onsite inspection, the licensee had not responded to the NRC's request for additional information. NRC review of the restoration report will continue after the licensee has submitted the requested information.

The inspectors reviewed the routine groundwater sample results. Annual groundwater samples and fourth quarter 2008 samples were collected from six ranch wells located near the Christensen Ranch and Irigaray sites. The samples were analyzed for uranium, thorium-230, radium-226, lead-210, and polonium-210 concentrations. All sampling results were consistently low and no upward trends were noted.

License Condition 10.2 states, in part, that the licensee shall perform mechanical integrity tests on each well at least once every five years. The licensee brought to the attention of the inspectors that wells located in mine unit 2, mine unit 6, and possibly other mine units had not been tested within the required 5-year interval. Upon further research, the inspectors noted that the NRC-approved license application, Section 3.3.2.2, states that "operational wells" will be tested every 5 years, even though the license does not make this distinction. This distinction was important because the wells in the various mine units were not in operation at the time of the inspection.

The inspectors concluded that the licensee's failure to conduct mechanical integrity tests on all wells within 5 years was not safety significant because the wells were not in service and were not pressurized. The risk of well failure is related to the over-pressurization of the wells. If the wells were not in service, then the wells were not at risk of mechanically failing. The issue was not a violation because the license application allows the licensee to conduct mechanical integrity tests only on operating wells.

The inspectors discussed with the licensee its plans for completing the well tests and for tracking mechanical integrity tests in the future. These corrective actions will be necessary to ensure that the licensee effectively controls these retests during future wellfield operations. The licensee was considering an upgrade to its computerized tracking system and will ensure that the database is up to date prior to operations. The NRC staff is expected to review the licensee's upgraded computerized tracking system during a future inspection.

License Condition 11.2 provides the sampling requirements for excursion monitoring. This LC states, in part, that additional samples must be collected if the routine sample results indicate an exceedance of the upper control limits. The inspectors reviewed the licensee's implementation of its excursion monitoring program. The inspectors noted that the licensee had an effective program for identifying and reporting excursions to the NRC. All required excursion monitoring samples had been collected and analyzed by the licensee.

The licensee also had an effective program for collecting additional samples as required by LC 11.2 following identification of an exceedance; although, the licensee did not always maintain chain of custody records for these additional samples. The inspectors noted that chain-of-custody records were not always available for selected samples collected between CYs 2007-2009. The inspectors discussed these missing records with the licensee, and the licensee stated that it would reconsider its program for documenting the collection of non-routine samples. The inspectors concluded that the missing chain-of-custody records were not safety significant because the licensee had collected, analyzed, and reported these additional sample results to the NRC as required by the license.

b. Evaporation Impoundments

The physical conditions of selected impoundments were inspected at both the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch sites. Ponds IR-A, IR-RA, C, D, and E were in decommissioning with liners removed. Per the licensee, any contaminated soils underneath the liners were also removed. At Irigaray, Ponds IR-B and IR-RB continued to be sampled quarterly. At Christensen Ranch, Ponds CR-P1 (empty and unlined), CR-1, CR-2, CR-3 and CR-4 also were sampled quarterly if water was available for sampling.

Per LC 11.4, the licensee performed and documented weekly visual inspections of all evaporation pond embankments, fences and liners, as well as measurement of pond freeboard and checks of the leak detection system. All pond inspection records from 2007 through the fourth quarter of 2008 were reviewed. In addition, the inspectors toured selected evaporation ponds and found them in good physical condition with no visible tears or holes in the liner material where pond water could be expected to leak through.

c. Environmental Monitoring Program

The licensee has six environmental stations located at Irigaray and four stations located at Christensen Ranch. From 2002 until the third quarter 2008, no environmental sampling was required due to the decommissioning status of the license. Commencing on October 1, 2008, the licensee was required under LC 11.3 to conduct the operational effluent and environmental monitoring programs in accordance with Sections 5.7 and 5.8 of the approved license application.

At each environmental station, on a quarterly basis, the licensee measured radon concentrations using a track-etch device and measured gamma radiation levels using environmental thermo-luminescent dosimeters. The average radon effluent concentrations were significantly below the 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B effluent concentration limit for radon-222. For CY 2008, the highest gamma radiation at the site boundary was found to be 12 millirems, which is also considered to be the dose to members of the public from the licensed operations. The annual dose limit to members of the public is 100 millirems.

During dryer operations, the licensee is required to perform dryer stack emissions tests and continuous airborne radionuclide sampling at Irigaray Ranch. Since the last inspection, the dryer has not operated. Therefore, the licensee did not perform these stack emissions tests and conduct airborne sampling.

d. Effluent Releases to Surface Waters

Willow Creek intermittently flows through parts of the licensee's site. Prior to 2008, the water was sampled at three locations annually. Beginning in 2009, the water was sampled quarterly. The water was sampled for eight chemical parameters and five radionuclides. NRC staff reviewed the available surface water samples for CY 2007 through the third quarter of 2009 and determined that all sample results were less than the 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B, Table 2, effluent concentration limits for all radionuclides analyzed. The inspectors noted that the results for sampling location IR-17, sampled on October 31, 2008, exceeded the 10 CFR Part 20 limits. However, the NRC's limits are averaged over a year; therefore, the licensee did not exceed the effluent concentration limits for 2008.

4.3. Conclusions

The licensee conducted effluent and environmental monitoring in accordance with license requirements. The sample results were less than the regulatory limits. Public doses were below the annual limit specified in regulations.

5 Inspection of Transportation Activities (86740) and Radioactive Waste Management (88035)

5.1 Inspection Scope

Determine if transportation and waste disposal activities were being conducted in compliance with the regulations and license requirements.

5.2 Observations and Findings

a. Transportation Activities

The licensee ships radioactive materials in the form of 11e.(2) radioactive waste. During CY 2007 through August 2009, the licensee shipped a total of 45 waste shipments to Pathfinder Mines Corporation, Shirley Basin. The inspectors reviewed the licensee's shipment records, and the records appeared to be in compliance with NRC and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations. Included in the licensee's records were survey forms for documentation of DOT-required radiological surveys. The inspectors also compared the DOT hazardous materials training records for two individuals to the requirements specified in 10 CFR 71.5 and 49 CFR Part 172, Subpart H. The training subject matter and documentation appeared to meet the regulatory requirements.

b. (Closed) Violation 040-08502/0701-03: Expiration of the waste disposal agreement

License Condition 9.7 authorizes the licensee to dispose of 11e.(2) byproduct material at a site licensed by the NRC or Agreement State. The license also requires the licensee to notify the NRC within 7 days of the expiration or termination of the waste disposal agreement. During the previous inspection, a violation was identified related to the expiration of the waste disposal agreement between the licensee and Pathfinder Mines Corporation. The licensee provided a copy of the renewed waste disposal agreement to the inspectors on July 23, 2007. The licensee also responded to the violation by letter

dated August 20, 2007. Corrective actions to prevent a recurrence included placing the expiration date on all shipping papers used to ship 11e.(2) material for disposal. The inspectors found the corrective actions to be adequate.

5.3. Conclusions

The licensee was conducting transportation of radioactive waste activities in accordance with license and regulatory requirements. One previous violation related to failure to have a valid waste disposal agreement as required by LC 9.7 was closed.

6 Exit Meeting Summary

The inspectors presented the preliminary inspection results to the licensee at the conclusion of the onsite inspection on October 1, 2009. The final exit briefing was conducted with the licensee via telephone on October 6, 2009. Licensee representatives acknowledged the findings as presented. The licensee did not identify any information reviewed by the inspector as proprietary information.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

R. Mark Owens, Mine Manager
L. Arbogast, Radiation Safety Officer
T. Hardgrove, Manager, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

| | |
|-------|---|
| 88005 | Management Organization and Controls |
| 89001 | In-Situ Leach Facilities |
| 83822 | Radiation Protection |
| 88045 | Effluent Control and Environmental Protection |
| 86740 | Inspection of Transportation Activities |
| 88035 | Radioactive Waste Management |

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| 040-08502/0701-01 | VIO | Exceeded of the annual production limit |
| 040-08502/0701-03 | VIO | Expiration of waste disposal agreement |

Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

| | |
|-------|---|
| ALARA | annual as low as is reasonably achievable |
| CY | calendar year |
| DOT | U.S. Department of Transportation |
| LC | License Condition |
| mr/hr | millirem per hour |
| µR/hr | microRoentgen per hour |
| RSO | radiation safety officer |
| RWP | radiation work permit |
| SOP | standard operating procedure |
| VIO | Violation |