

March 17, 2010

Mr. Thomas E. Gieck
Remediation Leader
Umetco Minerals Corporation
P.O. Box 1029
Grand Junction, CO 81502

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF THE ONE-TIME GROUNDWATER SAMPLING EVENT FOR THE UMETCO MINERALS CORPORATION'S GAS HILLS URANIUM MILL SITE, SOURCE MATERIALS LICENSE SUA-648 (TAC J00608)

Dear Mr. Gieck:

By letters to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated September 22, 2009, and November 19, 2009, Umetco Minerals Corporation (Umetco) submitted the results of its one-time groundwater sampling event in preparation for license termination. Although barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead were previously excluded from the routine groundwater monitoring program, they were evaluated during the one-time groundwater sampling event. Based on the results of this sampling event, barium, cadmium, and lead were detected in the groundwater, while chromium was not detected. In your letters, you discuss that barium, cadmium, chromium, and lead do not need to be added to the groundwater monitoring program because public health and safety remains protected.

Based on the staff's review, as documented in the enclosed Technical Evaluation Report, the staff agrees with your conclusion that barium, cadmium, and lead do not need to be added to the monitoring program. This is because the NRC previously excluded barium, chromium, and lead, and they are below 10 CFR 40, Appendix A, Table 5C standards. Therefore, the protection of public health and safety will be maintained. Additionally, NRC staff agrees that cadmium can remain excluded from monitoring after considering the requirements of 10 CFR 40, Appendix A, Criterion 5B(3), which considers whether or not a constituent is capable of posing a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment. An environmental review was not performed since there is no change to the already approved groundwater monitoring program.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Richard Chang, the NRC Project Manager for the Gas Hills facility, at (301) 415-7188, or by e-mail, to richard.chang@nrc.gov.

T. Gieck

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's document system, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lydia W. Chang, Branch Chief
Special Projects Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-0299
License No.: SUA-648

Enclosure:
Technical Evaluation Report

cc: M. Moxley, WDEQ
R. Bush, DOE
S. Surovchak, DOE

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(CLOSES TAC J00608)

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