

December 6, 2005

Mr. Greg Weigel  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Region 10  
Idaho Operations Office  
1435 North Orchard Street  
Boise, ID 83706

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT REMEDIATION OF A  
CONTAMINATED PROPERTY IN NORTH FORK, IDAHO

Dear Mr. Weigel:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is requesting assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to facilitate remediation of a property with radiological and hazardous material contamination in the State of Idaho.

The NRC is working with the State of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service on the decommissioning of the former Salmon River Uranium Development, Inc. (SRUD) mill site located near North Fork, Idaho. The property is located in Section 26, Township 24 North, Range 20 East, on the north side of the Salmon River. The mill consists of one main building and two adjacent buildings. The site's exterior property has two above-ground corrosive material storage tanks, two dilapidated camper trailers, an ore inlet chute structure, and a 0.8-acre dry tailings pond.

Based on previous site visits and historical information, the site currently has radiological contamination levels that would not meet the criteria for unrestricted release in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. Radiological contamination is located inside the buildings and in the dry tailings pond, and is believed to extend to an area of 2 acres around the mill. The current owner of the property has conducted some hazardous waste remediation since 1996. Based on visual observation, the remaining hazardous material on the property includes two corroded sulphuric acid tanks, one underground diesel tank, and several small, empty plastic and glass acid containers.

The NRC and its contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, conducted a scoping survey at the property in October 2003. A copy of this scoping survey is attached. This survey does not represent a full radiological characterization of the property, which is necessary to determine the actual contamination levels and the amount of waste that was generated during the decommissioning project. I also have attached a copy of a site evaluation conducted by Mr. Robert Higdem of Idaho's Division of Environmental Quality during August, 1996.

Currently, the site is owned by private citizens who do not have the necessary technical and financial resources to remediate the facility and ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. After NRC consultation with the State of Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality, they have informed me they do not have funding

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programs available for remediation of the SRUD site. Therefore, NRC requests EPA assistance in order to obtain adequate funding to support cleanup of the property. In addition, coordination with EPA is requested because the site contains hazardous waste that does not fall under NRC's purview. This financial support is necessary to remediate the SRUD site in a timely manner and ensure compliance with NRC's regulatory requirements. NRC will provide EPA the necessary support to ensure the SRUD site is remediated.

Please note that the attached documents are considered sensitive information and are not available for public inspection. Therefore, please do not distribute these documents to any person outside your office.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, the SRUD mill site, or if you need additional information (including coordinating a site visit), please feel free to call Rafael Rodriguez, Project Manager, at (301) 415-0193.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Daniel M. Gillen, Deputy Director  
Decommissioning Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-03400

License Nos.: R-0230 (expired), P-4001 (expired)

Enclosures:

1. Radiological Scoping Survey of the Salmon River Uranium Development, Inc. Processing Mill, North Fork, Idaho.
2. August 14, 15, 18, 1996 Site Evaluation by Idaho's Division of Environmental Quality.

cc: See Distribution

G. Weigel

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Identical letter sent to Rick Poeton

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cc: (without Enclosures)

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