

November 29, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Bill Von Till, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: Douglas Mandeville, Project Manager /RA/
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

On November 3, 2010, a public meeting was held with Cameco Resources, doing business as Power Resources, Inc., (PRI) at NRC Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss PRI's North Butte facility, which is currently licensed as a satellite to the Smith Ranch-Highland Uranium Project. A summary of the meeting is enclosed.

Docket No: 40-8964

Enclosure: Meeting Summary

cc: Meeting Attendees

CONTACT: Douglas Mandeville, FSME/DWMEP
(301) 415-0724

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Meeting Attendees

ML103260403

OFFICE	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
NAME	DMandeville	BGarrett	BVonTill	DMandeville
DATE	11/23 /10	11/23/10	11/28/10	11/29/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MEETING REPORT

DATE: November 3, 2010

TIME: 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland
Room T-8C5

PURPOSE: This meeting was held at the request of Cameco Resources, doing business as Power Resources, Inc., to discuss its North Butte satellite facility.

ATTENDEES:

See Attached Attendees List.

BACKGROUND:

The North Butte facility was originally licensed to Uranerz U.S.A. in December 1991. The licensed design considered a standalone central processing plant operating at a flow rate of 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm) with 10 mine units. No commercial scale production has occurred at the North Butte facility. Uranerz U.S.A. sold the North Butte facility to Pathfinder in 1991; Pathfinder sold the facility to Power Resources, Inc. (PRI) in 2001. PRI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cameco Resources (CR). North Butte is currently licensed as a satellite facility to the Smith Ranch-Highland Uranium Project (SR-HUP) under NRC license SUA-1548. License Condition 10.2.1 contains the following condition that applies to the North Butte satellite facility:

Before engaging in any commercial in situ leach activity not previously assessed by the NRC, the licensee shall prepare a new operating plan in accordance with the guidance in NUREG-1569 (June 2003), for NRC review and approval, and shall prepare and record an environmental evaluation of such activity. When the evaluation indicates that such activity may result in a significant adverse environmental impact that was not previously assessed or that is greater than that previously assessed, the licensee shall provide a written evaluation of such activities and obtain prior approval of the NRC in the form of a license amendment.

The staff notes that additional correspondence related to the North Butte facility occurred between July 2006 and June 2007. On July 5, 2006, CR submitted a revised operations plan to address the above License Condition (see ADAMS ML061920282). The staff accepted this submittal for review on August 7, 2006 (see ADAMS ML062140712). This letter identified several issues that needed to be addressed to allow the staff to proceed with its detailed review. The staff issued a request for additional information (RAI) on December 14, 2006 (see ADAMS ML063380022). The staff ceased work related to the North Butte submittal on June 6, 2007 (see ADAMS ML071620318) as no response to the RAI was submitted.

Enclosure

DISCUSSION:

NRC staff read the opening statement for the meeting and CR staff proceeded with its discussion of the project. No slides were presented at this meeting. Discussion topics from the meeting are identified below.

Facility Features

- North Butte would be operated as a satellite to SR-HUP with approximately one to two shipments of ion exchange resin between the facilities each day.
- The 10 mine units considered in the initial design have been consolidated to 5 mine units. It is the staff's understanding that the total mine unit area remains unchanged.
- The satellite processing plant has been designed to run at 6,000 gpm.
- Surface rights are all privately held; there is no land owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

Waste Disposal

- Two deep disposal wells are permitted at the site and the permit is in renewal with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. The wells have not been installed.
- Depending on the water balance, a third deep disposal well may need to be considered in the future.

Health Physics

- CR plans to have a health physics technician at North Butte to address operational radiation safety issues.
- A meteorological station has been installed.

Ground water Protection

- The staff understands that the current underground injection control aquifer exemption boundary is set at the monitor well ring.
- There is active coal bed methane (CBM) drilling within the license area; CBM water is piped to Salt Creek for discharge.
- CR has had a consultant evaluate CBM related issues at North Butte and have not identified any drawdown issues or differences in water quality.
- The nearest user of ground water is likely to be the Fister Ranch.

Wildlife and Cultural Resources

- The license boundary is not in the sage grouse core area.
- The staff understands that CR has initiated correspondence with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- The staff understands that the site is in the vicinity of the Pumpkin Buttes, which are considered a traditional cultural property.

Submittal

- CR plans on making a submittal during the first quarter of calendar year 2011.
- The staff notes that guidance for submittals can be found in Regulatory Guide 3.46 "Standard Format and Content of License Applications, Including Environmental Reports, for In Situ Uranium Solution Mining," NUREG 1569 "Standard Review Plan for In Situ Leach Uranium Extraction License Applications," and NUREG-1748 "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs".

ACTIONS:

The meeting ended at approximately 2:20 p.m. No action items were identified during the meeting.

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. List of Attendees

MEETING AGENDA
Cameco Resources/Power Resources, Inc. (PRI).
Wednesday November 3, 2010

MEETING PURPOSE: To Discuss Cameco Resources/PRI's North Butte Satellite to the Smith Ranch Highland Uranium Project.

MEETING PROCESS:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1:30 p.m.	Introductions	All
	North Butte licensing history	PRI/NRC
	Plans for North Butte	PRI
	Discussion	All
	Summary of Action Items	Moderator
	Public Comments/Questions	
3:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Attachment 1