

June 20, 2011

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

FROM: Stephen J. Cohen, Team Leader **/RA/**
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: REPORT OF SIDEBAR MEETING WITH POWERTECH (USA), INC.

Enclosed with this memorandum is a report of the May 24, 2011 meeting between representatives of Powertech (USA), Inc. and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff to discuss the review of its application for the proposed Dewey-Burdock in situ recovery facility. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Enclosure: Meeting Report

cc: Meeting Attendees

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MEETING REPORT

DATE: May 24, 2011

TIME: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Grand Hyatt Hotel
1750 Welton Street
Denver, CO
303-295-1234

PURPOSE: Powertech (USA), Inc. (Powertech) requested this meeting to discuss the review of its application for the proposed Dewey-Burdock uranium in situ recovery (ISR) facility. An agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment 1.

ATTENDEES:

See Attached Attendees List (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND:

On December 23, 2010, Powertech submitted responses to the staff's request for additional information (RAI) issued as part of the technical review of Powertech's Dewey-Burdock license application. On March 7, 2011, the staff informed Powertech that the responses were insufficient. A meeting was held on April 8 and 9, 2011, to discuss the deficiencies, and this May 24, 2011 meeting provides additional information.

DISCUSSION:

NRC staff read the opening statement for the meeting and Powertech proceeded to present its slide presentation (Attachment 3) of the project. Powertech's presentation focused on the following topics:

- Potential for unplugged drill holes to contaminate surface water
- Potential of underground mine workings to influence well fields
- Potential for inadequate hydraulic containment of production fluids
- Potential for inadequate hydraulic containment due to possible breccia pipes

During the presentation, Powertech stated the following:

- Powertech will submit completed RAI package by June 29, 2011, and it will be submitted electronically.
- Fuson shale is no less than 20 feet thick based on 1000 data points. Therefore, it is a competent confining layer.
- Underground mine workings – Powertech has no plans to develop anything within the Fall River near the workings. Furthermore, the mine workings are hydraulically isolated from the Lower Chilson extraction zone.

Enclosure

- Brecia Pipes - Brecia pipes in the area are all rooted in the Minnelusa. Some are located 6 miles northeast of the project area, and all have associated springs. No such springs are observed on the project site.
- Leaking boreholes – Although the potentiometric surface above ground surface, no evidence of leakage occurs near Beaver Creek or Pass Creek.
- Some areas of communication between Inyan Kara and surface were identified by infrared imagery, but none are identified in the permit area.
- Modeling – Powertech will create a regional model to get water budget and flow regime.

ACTIONS:

NRC Action Item – Check on the timing for resubmitting the TR

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Agenda
- 2 List of Attendees
- 3 Presentation

**MEETING AGENDA
AGENDA
Powertech (USA), Inc.
Dewey-Burdock ISR Facility
Tuesday, May 24, 2010, 8:00 a.m.**

MEETING PURPOSE: Meeting with Powertech (USA), Inc. regarding the review of its application for the proposed Dewey-Burdock in situ recovery facility.

MEETING PROCESS:

Time

8:00 a.m. Introductions

- 1.) Technical Report Request for Additional Information
 - a. Completeness of RAI responsibility assigned to WWC
 - i. Comprehensive package to address all RAI clearly and fully stand alone responses
 - ii. Incorporate directions given in April 7-8th meeting
 - iii. Additional discussion with NRC for clarification of RAI still needed
 - b. Comprehensively revised Technical Report to follow
 - c. ADAMS compliant document meeting NRC .pdf standards

- 2.) Geology/hydrogeology
 - a. Presentation of conceptual geologic/hydrogeologic model
 - b. Additional data collection
 - i. Alluvial mapping
 - ii. Additional water quality sampling by USGS in June for geochemical parameters

- 3.) Objectives and outline for groundwater model to be prepared by Petrotek
 - a. Modeling goals and issues to be addressed
 - b. General parameters and framework for model

- 4.) Public Questions/Comments

9:00 a.m. Adjourn



MEETING ATTENDEES

Date: May 24, 2011
 Grand Hyatt Hotel, Denver, CO
 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Topic: Powertech (USA), Inc.

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL
Stephen J. Cohen	USNRC	stephen.cohen@nrc.gov
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