UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

July 5, 2012

CAL 4-12-003

Donna L. Wichers
Senior Vice President, ISR Operations
Uranium One USA, Inc.
907 North Poplar Street, Suite 260
Casper, Wyoming 82601

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER

Dear Ms. Wichers:

On June 25, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff was informed by Mr. Bill Kearney, the Uranium One USA Director of Safety, Health & Environment, of an event regarding the opening of a drum of Uranium One USA, Inc.'s (Uranium One's) uranium concentrate powder product (yellowcake) by a Canadian uranium refinery to which the material had been shipped for further processing. This event involved a yellowcake drum, shipped from Uranium One's Willow Creek facility in Wyoming to the processor located in Blind River, Ontario, that either left the plant under pressure or became pressurized during shipment. A worker at the Blind River facility loosened the lid clamp of this pressurized drum, and uranium concentrate powder was ejected from the drum into the immediate work area. This resulted in three workers being exposed to airborne uranium. We are also aware that a similar event occurred with a yellowcake drum at the Wyoming facility you now operate, in April 1998. As a result of the 1998 event, the former licensee implemented corrective action to prevent recurrence.

Based on our discussion with Mr. Kearney, we understand that Uranium One has initiated an investigation into the cause(s) of this event. Pursuant to a telephone conversation between yourself and Mr. Anton Vegel, Director of the NRC Region IV Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, on July 2, 2012, and July 5, 2012, it is our understanding that you will take the following actions:

1. By July 9, 2012, determine whether any other yellowcake drums previously shipped or awaiting shipping from your Wyoming facilities remain unopened. For any unopened drums identified, propose your course of action to ensure the safety of these drums for continued storage, shipment, or further processing. Specifically, verify that the loaded drums at your facility are not exhibiting signs of pressurization, or if any drums are, then take appropriate actions to mitigate the condition. Regarding the drums shipped to the Canadian facility, communicate recommendations to the uranium refinery to mitigate the potential for worker exposure due to potentially pressurized drums.

2. Conduct an investigation to determine causes of the pressurization of yellowcake drums shipped from your Wyoming facilities and identify corrective action(s) to prevent recurrence.

3. Provide this office with the results of your investigation and corrective actions taken or planned to prevent recurrence.

4. Shipments of uranium product will not be resumed until the NRC has completed its inspection and review of your actions listed above.

Pursuant to Section 182 of the Atomic Energy Act, 42 U.S.C. 2232, you are required to:

1. Notify me immediately if your understanding differs from that set forth above;

2. Notify me if, for any reason, you cannot complete the actions within the specified schedule; advise me, in writing, of your modified schedule in advance of the change; and

3. Notify me, in writing, when you have completed the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude issuance of an order formalizing the above commitments or requiring other actions on the part of the licensee, nor does it preclude the NRC from taking enforcement action for violations of NRC requirements that may have prompted the issuance of this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," an electronic copy of this letter and your response will be made available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC 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. If personal privacy or proprietary information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, then please provide a bracketed copy of your response that identifies the information that should be protected and a redacted copy of your response that deletes such information. If you request withholding of such material, you must specifically identify the portions of your response that you seek to have withheld and provide in detail the bases for your claim of withholding (e.g., explain why the disclosure of information will create an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or provide the information required by 10 CFR 2.390(b) to support a request for withholding confidential commercial or financial information).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Dr. D. Blair Spitzberg of my staff at 817-200-1191.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator

Docket: 040-08502
License: SUA-1341

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

Ms. Nancy Nuttbrock, Administrator
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division
1866 South Sheridan Ave.
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Mr. Jafir A. Jaferi, P.Eng., Senior Project Officer
Nuclear Processing Facilities Division
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5S9

Wyoming Radiation Control Program Director

Internal NRC distribution via e-mail:
Tony Vegel, D:DNMS
Vivian Campbell, DD:DNMS
Blair Spitzberg, C:RSFS
Linda Gersey, RSFS
Bill Maier, RSLO
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ADAMS: □ No □ Yes	□ SUNSI Review Complete	Reviewer Initials:
	□ Publicly Available	□ Non-Sensitive
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RIV:C:DNMS/RSFS	DD:DNMS	D:DNMS	D:ACES
DBSpitzberg;dlf	VHCampbell	AVegel	HJGepford
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RC	DWMEP	DRA	RA
KDFuller	LWCamper	ATHowell	EECollins
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7/2/12	7/2/12	7/05/12	7/05/12

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