

July 16, 2012

Ann Marshall Young, Chair  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop T-3 F23  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dr. Richard F. Cole  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop T-3 F23  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dr. Fred W. Oliver  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop T-3 F23  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

In the Matter of  
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.  
(License Amendment for the North Trend Expansion Project)  
Docket No. 40-8943; ASLBP No. 07-859-03-MLA-BD01

Dear Administrative Judges:

In its Order dated March 5, 2009, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (“Board”) directed the NRC staff (“Staff”) to tender each month a status report advising as to whether the estimated dates for issuance of the final Safety Evaluation Report (“SER”) (predicted for the late summer of 2009) and the final environmental review document (predicted for December of 2009) have changed.<sup>1</sup> The Staff continues to expect to be able to issue the SER by the end of September 2012. While the Staff continues to expect at this time to issue the final environmental review document by the end of November 2012, the Staff would note that there is a possibility of delay (up to a few months) due to time potentially needed to accomplish activities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In keeping with the Board’s mandate, the Staff will tender its next monthly status report by August 16, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

**Executed in Accord with 10 CFR 2.304(d)**

Brett Michael Patrick Klukan  
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Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
This 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012

cc: Attached Service List

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<sup>1</sup> Order (Confirming Matters Addressed at March 4, 2009, Telephone Conference), at 1 (March 5, 2009).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

|  |   |                              |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| In the Matter of                           | ) |                              |
|  | ) |                              |
| CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.                 | ) | Docket No. 40-8943           |
| In-Situ Leach Facility, Crawford, Nebraska | ) |                              |
|  | ) | ASLBP No. 07-859-03-MLA-BD01 |
| (License Amendment for the North Trend     | ) |                              |
| Expansion Project)                         | ) |                              |

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "NRC STAFF'S LETTER TO THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD" in the above captioned proceeding have been served via the Electronic Information Exchange ("EIE") this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012, which to the best of my knowledge resulted in transmittal of the foregoing to those on the EIE Service List for the above captioned proceeding.

**Executed in Accord with 10 CFR 2.304(d)**

Brett Michael Patrick Klukan  
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