

December 13, 2012

Michael M. Gibson, Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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

Brian K. Hajek
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Alan S. Rosenthal
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 Renewal for the In Situ Leach Facility, Crawford, Nebraska)
Docket No. 40-8943; ASLBP No. 08-867-02-OLA-BD01

Dear Administrative Judges:

In its Order dated January 8, 2009, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (“Board”) directed the NRC staff (“Staff”), commencing on January 15, 2009, to tender each month “a short report advising as to whether the estimated dates for issuance of the final [Safety Evaluation Report (‘SER’)] (predicted for summer/fall of 2009) and final [environmental review document] (predicted for December of 2009) have changed or become more definitive.”

The Staff expects to finalize the SER by December 21, 2012. Considering the time necessary to complete normal ADAMS document processing, a publicly available version of the SER should be available by January 2, 2013. As soon as the SER has been processed and is publicly available, the Staff will issue a notice to the Board and the parties to that effect. The Staff would also be happy to supply the Board and the parties, upon request,¹ with paper copies of the document.

The Staff continues to expect to issue the final environmental review document by the end of March 2013. The Staff notes, however, that there is a possibility of further delay (up to a few months) in issuing the environmental review document due to the complicated nature of the Section 106 consultation activities.

In keeping with the Board’s mandate, the Staff will tender its next monthly status report by January 16, 2013.

¹ Such requests can be submitted to Counsel for the Staff (either telephonically or via email).

Gibson
Cole
Hajek
Rosenthal

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Respectfully submitted,

Signed (electronically) by
Brett Michael Patrick Klukan
Counsel for the NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555-0001
(301) 415-3629
Brett.Klukan@NRC.gov

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
This 13th day of December, 2012

cc: Attached Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

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| In the Matter of |) | |
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| CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC. |) | Docket No. 40-8943 |
| |) | |
| (License Renewal for the In Situ Leach |) | ASLBP No. 08-867-08-OLA-BD01 |
| Facility, Crawford, Nebraska) |) | |

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"), the NRC's E-Filing System, this 13th day of December 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.

Signed (electronically) by
Brett Michael Patrick Klukan
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