

February 11, 1999
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USNRC

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

'99 FEB 11 P5:24

BEFORE THE PRESIDING OFFICER

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKING AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

In the Matter of)	
)	Docket No. 40-8968-ML
HYDRO RESOURCES, INC.)	
2929 Coors Road, Suite 101)	Re: Leach Mining and Milling License
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120)	

NRC STAFF MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
TO FILE BRIEF ON GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.730, the Staff requests that it be granted a 16-day extension (*i.e.*, until March 12, 1999) to file its response to the written presentations on groundwater. The Staff response is currently due Wednesday, February 24, 1999. *See* Memorandum and Order, (Scheduling and Partial Grant of Motion for Bifurcation), dated September 22, 1998; Intervenors Amended Written Presentation In Opposition to Hydro Resources, Inc.'s Application for a Materials License With Respect to Groundwater Protection, dated January 18, 1999.

The additional response time is needed to enable the Staff's expert, William Ford, to address matters raised in Intervenors' filing upon his return to the office next week. Mr. Ford has been out of town caring for his elderly parents, including his mother who succumbed to a terminal illness earlier this month.

Counsel for the Staff has spoken to Johanna Matanich, counsel for Intervenors Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) and Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC), David Lashway, counsel for Hydro Resources Inc., and Roderick Ventura, counsel for Grace Sam and Marilyn Morris. Each counsel indicated that

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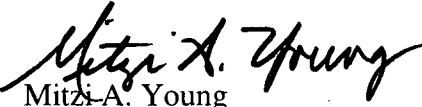
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they have no objection to the 16-day extension. In addition, the Staff believes that it request meets the guidelines for extensions of time reiterated by the Commission in *Hydro Resources, Inc.*, CLI-99-1, 49 NRC ____, slip op. at 2-3 (January 29, 1999).

Accordingly, the Staff requests that its unopposed request for an extension of time be granted so as to permit the Staff's presentation on groundwater protection issues to be filed on Friday, March 12, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,


Mitzi A. Young
Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 11th day of February 1999

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In the Matter of)
)
HYDRO RESOURCES, INC.) Docket No. 40-8968-ML
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2929 Coors Road, Suite 101) (Leach Mining and Milling License)
)
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Thereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE BRIEF ON GROUNDWATER PROTECTION" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following by U.S. Mail, first class, or, as indicated by a single asterisk through deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, or, as indicated by double asterisks, by facsimile and U.S. Mail, first class, this 11th day of February, 1999:

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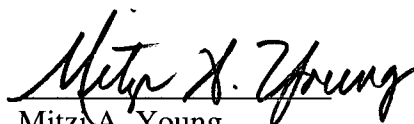
Secretary* (2)
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Adjudicatory File* (2)
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
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