



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

WM-60060

JUL 05 2013

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Dear Governor Mead:

This letter updates my previous response to your letter to Secretary Chu former U.S. Secretary of Energy, dated February 6, 2012, regarding the status of the Riverton, Wyoming Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) processing site.

Several noteworthy accomplishments have been achieved since we responded to your concerns on March 5, 2012. These include establishing a new cooperative agreement with the Tribal Nations, an expanded site characterization program to evaluate effects from the 2010 Wind River flood, and hiring a dedicated site manager familiar with the Riverton site geology and environmental conditions.

A cooperative agreement with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Joint Business Council (JBC) was signed on April 22, 2013. The one-year agreement provides \$136,000 to the Wind River Environmental Quality Commission (WREQC). Key components of the agreement include verification monitoring by collecting and submitting additional water samples to laboratories, planning a new supplemental risk assessment, providing outreach at a local educational office, and reviewing technical documents. Our goal is to develop long-term cooperative agreements that benefit the Wind River Indian Reservation community. For example, the cooperative agreement with the Northern Arapaho Tribe to provide an alternate water supply is now in the second five year period and DOE-LM is working closely with the community and Tribal officials under the agreement.

Your letter expressed concerns over the effects of the 2010 Wind River flood and increases in groundwater contamination. DOE developed a work plan in June 2012 for additional field work that was reviewed by WREQC and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Over one hundred water samples and sixty soil samples were collected and extensively analyzed during the 2012 field season. Results published in February 2013 indicate that the existing monitoring well network captures the contaminant plume. Subsequent monitoring indicates concentrations are declining to pre-flood levels. An interpretative report will be released this month to provide additional information regarding the groundwater plume configuration, soil testing, groundwater modeling, the site conceptual model, and compliance strategy.

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To ensure the protection of human health and the environment, DOE hired a dedicated site manager, William Dam, in December 2012. William Dam most recently worked for the USGS, and is a graduate of the University of Wyoming. From April to October 2012, he served DOE on a special assignment to support the Riverton site characterization project.

I hope this update on our actions at the Riverton site has been helpful. Should your staff have any questions on this project, they can contact William Dam at (970) 248-6484 and at William.Dam@lm.doe.gov.

Sincerely,



David W. Geiser
Director
Office of Legacy Management

cc:

Senator John Barrasso
Senator Michael Enzi
Representative Cynthia Lummis
Pam Burline, Field Representative
Kelly Thompson, Field Representative
Ryan McConnaughey, Field Representative
Shawn Reese, Policy Advisor, Wyoming Office of the Governor
Dominick Orlando, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
John Erickson, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Darrell O'Neal, Sr., Chairman, Northern Arapaho Business Council
Darwin St. Clair, Jr., Chairman, Eastern Shoshone Business Council
Gary Collins, Tribal Liaison – Northern Arapaho Tribe
Sara Robinson, Tribal Liaison – Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Ryan Ortiz, Wind River Environmental Quality Commission
William Dam, DOE-LM
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