

December 10, 2013

EA-13-138

Mr. Jeremy Laakso  
Radiation Safety Officer  
Tilden Mining Company, L.C.  
P.O. Box 2000  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NO. 03034221/2013002(DNMS) AND  
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – TILDEN MINING  
COMPANY, L.C.

Dear Mr. Laakso:

On November 19, 2013, an inspector from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a special inspection at the Tilden Mine. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to restore compliance for and address the recurrence of security-related violations identified during a routine NRC inspection on May 29, 2013. Mr. Ryan Craffey of my staff held an exit meeting with you by telephone on November 25, 2013, to discuss the inspection findings.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that Tilden Mining Company, L.C., has implemented adequate corrective actions to restore compliance with NRC requirements and address recurrence of similar violation for the security-related violation cited by the NRC in a Notice of Violation dated August 29, 2013. However, the cover letter transmitting that Notice of Violation also contained an Exercise of Discretion for a second security-related issue identified during the May 29, 2013, inspection which also failed to meet NRC requirements. Although the NRC chose to exercise discretion, for the reasons provided at in Enclosure 2 of the August 29, 2013, letter, the NRC still expected that the issue would be brought up to full compliance with NRC regulations. During this inspection, the inspector identified that, although your staff took a number of positive steps, full compliance had not been achieved until additional corrective actions were implemented during the course of the November 19, 2013, inspection. Therefore, the NRC requests that Tilden Mining Company, L.C., submit in writing a description of the corrective actions taken, or planned to be taken to be taken, in order to ensure that the issue is fully in compliance with NRC regulations, including prevention of future non-compliances, considering the issue identified by the inspector on November 19, 2013.

Please provide the requested information to me, Patrick Loudon, Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, 2443 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL, 60532, within 30 days of this letter.

J. Laakso

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In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Because this issue involves security-related information, your response will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the PDR or from ADAMS. Please mark the top of each page of your response "Security-Related Information – Withhold Under 10 CFR 2.390". To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information.

Please feel free to contact Ryan Craffey of my staff if you have any questions regarding this inspection. Mr. Craffey can be reached at (630) 829-9655.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Patrick L. Loudon, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 030-34221  
License No. 21-26748-01

cc: State of Michigan

J. Laakso

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Patrick L. Loudon, Director  
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