

March 31, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Bill Von Till, Chief
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: Ron Linton, Project Manager */RA/*
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 11, 2014, MEETING WITH URANERZ
ENERGY CORPORATION

On March 11, 2014, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of the Uranerz Energy Corporation to discuss licensing issues related to the Nichols Ranch ISR Project. The associated meeting notice was issued on February 27, 2014, and is available at NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14058B111. A summary of the meeting is enclosed.

Docket No: 040-09067

Enclosure: Meeting Summary

cc: Meeting Attendees

CONTACT: Ron Linton, FSME/DWMEP
(301) 415-7777

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Date	03/24 /14	03/ 25 /14	03/ 28/14	03/27/14	03/31/14

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MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: March 11, 2014

TIME: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., EDT

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland
Room T-8C5

PURPOSE: To discuss licensing issues related to the Nichols Ranch Project.

ATTENDEES: See Attached Attendee List

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this meeting was for Uranerz Energy Corporation (Uranerz or the licensee) and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or staff) staff to discuss licensing issues related to the licensee's Nichols Ranch Project.

The meeting and teleconference started at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time in room T-8C5. An opening statement was presented by Ron Linton, NRC. Participants introduced themselves and signed the attendance sheet.

DISCUSSION:

Uranerz personnel stressed the delay in operations of the facility is having a financial impact on the company.

The license conditions (LC) in NRC Materials License SUA-1597 were discussed in the following order:

LC 12.7

The NRC staff discussed its review of the meteorological data submitted by Uranerz. Based on responses from the NRC staff and contract statisticians, the NRC staff cannot determine that the meteorological data collected at the Nichols Ranch ISR Project is representative of long-term onsite meteorological conditions. The NRC staff acknowledged acceptable statistical methods are not addressed in Regulatory Guide 3.63. Staff indicated to the licensee that acceptable methods, such as goodness of fit tests, are described in Chapter 11 of Applying Statistics," NUREG-1475, Rev. 1, Washington, DC, March 2011.

The NRC staff verbally proposed a new operational license condition to replace preoperational license condition 12.7 that will require the licensee to continue to collect and evaluate meteorological data until long term representativeness can be shown. This proposed license condition will be forwarded to Uranerz in writing for review in the near future.

Enclosure

LC 12.8

The NRC staff asked Uranerz staff to clarify how they would predict when the highest effluent would occur from vented tanks in the central processing plant and for measurements taken quarterly. Uranerz staff indicated the highest predicted concentrations will be assumed to be when all tanks are open for ventilation. Uranerz staff indicated they would perform multiple measurements over the quarter until they can demonstrate when the highest concentrations occur. Once the highest predicted concentration is validated, the highest predicted concentration would be reevaluated periodically to determine if changes to operating parameters would affect the amount of effluent released. The NRC staff requested Uranerz clarify this in a LC 12.8 supplemental submission to NRC.

The NRC staff had no additional questions or comments on LC 12.8.

LC 12.9 through 12.14

The NRC and Uranerz staff had brief conversations about LCs 12.9 through 12.14. The NRC staff stated that no additional information is needed pertaining to these LCs.

The NRC staff explained the process to the licensee for amending the license. Staff will write a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) discussing the basis for license condition removal or modification. The SER will proceed through management and legal concurrence. The NRC staff indicated a three-week time period to complete this process, at best.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

There were several general comments and questions from the public. The NRC staff indicated that some questions on more general topics related to uranium recovery could be answered more fully after the meeting in separate conversations.

ACTION ITEMS:

The NRC staff will provide a detailed meeting summary of the issues discussed.

The meeting and teleconference ended at approximately 2:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENT:

Attendee List



MEETING ATTENDEES

Date: March 11, 2014

Topic: Discuss Uranerz Energy Corp's Nichols Ranch ISR Project Licensing issues

NAME	AFFILIATION
Ron Linton	NRC
Ron Burrows	NRC
Jim Webb	NRC
Robert Evans	NRC
Linda Gersey	NRC
Glenn Catchpole	Uranerz
Paul Goranson	Uranerz
John McCarthy	Uranerz
Aaron Linard	Uranerz
Chris Pugsley	Thompson & Pugsley
Jessica Mote	Uranerz
Dawn Kolkman	Uranerz
Ryan Schierman	Uranerz
Dennis Higgs	Uranerz
Beth Hooper	Superior Mineral Resources LLC
Jim Hecimovich	Superior Mineral Resources LLC
Jay Mackie	Excalibur Industries, Inc.
Lisa Manglass & Steve Brown	SENES
Doug Hirschman	Citizen
Ruth Thomas	Citizen