

February 2, 2015

Mr. Tom Pauling, Director
Office of Legacy Management
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
FOR A LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE PLAN FOR THE ANADARKO
BEAR CREEK URANIUM MILL TAILINGS SITE

Dear Mr. Pauling:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is asking the U.S. Department of Energy Legacy Management (DOE LM) to prepare a Long-Term Surveillance Plan (LTSP) for the Anadarko Bear Creek Uranium Mill Tailings Site (Bear Creek). On February 27, 2013, NRC sent a letter to Anadarko Petroleum Corporation approving their application for eliminating License Condition No. 47 that required a ground water compliance monitoring program (See Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML12145A201). This action was necessary prior to the transfer of the site to DOE LM. The Safety Evaluation Report for this licensing action (See ADAMS Accession Number ML12145A471) concluded that no ground water monitoring was necessary since the only viable aquifer was greater than 400 feet below the surface, and there was no connection with the mill tailings. Recently, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality classified the ground water at Bear Creek as industrial use only due to an elevated concentration of mercury (See ADAMS Accession Number ML14310A124). NRC concluded that even a limited ground water monitoring period was not needed, and that the remaining wells should be capped and abandoned.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

T. Pauling

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If you have any questions, please contact the project manager Tom McLaughlin at (301) 415-5869 or by e-mail at Thomas.McLaughlin@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Andrew Persinko, Deputy Director
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8452
License No.: SUA-1310

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