

March 30, 2015

G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chair
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dr. Richard E. Wardwell
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dr. Thomas J. Hirons
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

In the Matter of
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.
(Marsland Expansion Area)
Docket No. 40-8943-MLA-2; ASLBP No. 13-926-01-MLA-BD01

Dear Administrative Judges:

By letter dated January 21, 2015, the NRC Staff informed Crow Butte Resources, Inc. (CBR) that the Staff had not received complete responses to its requests for additional information (RAIs) for the Marsland Expansion Area (MEA) technical review.¹ The Staff's letter further informed CBR that its failure to provide those responses has resulted in a delay in the Staff's review schedule and asked CBR to provide, within 30 days, the remaining RAI responses or an updated schedule for submitting the RAI responses.

By letter dated February 26, 2015, CBR submitted to the Staff several revised target dates for submission of complete information in response to the Staff's RAIs, with the latest submission anticipated to occur on May 22, 2015.²

On March 23, 2015, noting both the Staff's January 21 letter to the Board and CBR's February 26 letter to the Staff, the Board requested that the Staff inform the Board of the estimated timeframe by which the Staff will be able to issue a revised schedule for the completion of the MEA safety and environmental reviews.³

By this letter, the Staff is notifying the Board that it estimates that it will be able to provide the Board and parties with a revised schedule for the completion of the MEA safety evaluation report (SER) and environmental assessment (EA) by June 30, 2015. This estimate has been calculated from CBR's target date of May 22, 2015 for submission of its last RAI response plus sufficient time for the Staff to assess the responses provided by CBR and determine that they are complete.

¹ Letter from Thomas Lancaster, NRC, to Larry Teahon, Cameco, at 1 (Jan. 21, 2015) (ADAMS Accession No. ML15020A686).

² Letter from Larry Teahon, Cameco, to Thomas Lancaster, NRC, at 1, 4 (Feb. 26, 2015) (ADAMS Accession No. ML15071A363).

³ Memorandum and Order (Requesting Update Regarding Timing of Issuance of Final NRC Staff Safety and Environmental Documents) (Mar. 23, 2015) (unpublished).

This estimate is predicated upon the receipt of all of CBR's responses to the Staff's RAIs by the target dates identified in their February 26 letter and an assumption that all of the responses provided will be complete. Should CBR fail to provide its responses to the Staff's RAIs by the target dates identified in their February 26 letter, or should the Staff determine that these responses are not sufficient to support the Staff's safety or environmental review of the MEA, the Staff may not be able to set the revised schedule for issuance of the SER and EA by June 30 as anticipated. In that case, the Staff will notify the Board and parties on or before June 30, 2015 if it is unable to provide a revised schedule at that time for the reasons discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

/Signed (electronically) by/

Emily Monteith

Counsel for the NRC Staff

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mail Stop O15-D21

Washington, DC 20555-0001

(301) 415-2718

Emily.Monteith@nrc.gov

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 30th day of March, 2015.

cc: EIE Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of)
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.) Docket No. 40-8943-MLA-2
(Marsland Expansion Area)) ASLBP No. 13-926-01-MLA-BD01

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "NRC Staff Letter to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served via the Electronic Information Exchange ("EIE"), the NRC's E-Filing System, this 30th day of March, 2015, which to the best of my knowledge resulted in transmittal of the foregoing to those on the EIE Service List for the above-captioned proceeding.

/Signed (electronically) by/
Emily Monteith
Counsel for the NRC Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of the General Counsel
Mail Stop: O-15 D21
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
(301) 415-2718
Emily.Monteith@nrc.gov