

August 10, 2015

Michael Thomas, Vice President  
Regulatory and Public Affairs  
Uranerz Energy Corporation  
1701 East E Street  
P.O. Box 50850  
Casper, WY 82605-0850

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION,  
URANERZ ENERGY CORPORATION NICHOLS RANCH *IN SITU* URANIUM  
RECOVERY PROJECT, CAMPBELL AND JOHNSON COUNTIES, WYOMING  
(TAC J00726)

Dear Mr. Thomas:

By letter dated May 8, 2014, Uranerz Energy Corporation (Uranerz) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a request to amend license SUA-1597 to construct and operate the Jane Dough Unit at the Nichols Ranch In-Situ Recovery Project located in Campbell and Johnson Counties, Wyoming. The NRC staff started its acceptance review on August 11, 2014, and made the application publicly available in NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) on September 8, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14164A274).

By letter dated November 25, 2014, NRC staff informed Uranerz that the Jane Dough amendment request was deficient due to lack of sufficient information regarding the confining unit between the Jane Dough Unit A and B Sands (ADAMS Accession No. ML14317A447). NRC and Uranerz discussed this issue during public meetings on December 9, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14345A959) and February 4, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15041A734). By letter dated April 13, 2015, Uranerz provided additional information and revisions to its Jane Dough license amendment request to address the deficiencies identified by the staff (ADAMS Accession No. ML15118A063). Specifically, Uranerz revised the Technical Report to state that where a confining unit does not separate the A and B Sands, the A and B Sands effectively combine into a single aquifer (i.e., the AB Sand) which serves as the production zone. In these areas, the aquifer that overlies the B Sand (e.g., the F Sand) will be designated as the overlying aquifer.

The NRC staff has reviewed the revised license amendment application and had determined that the application is acceptable for detailed technical and environmental review.

Per 10 CFR Part 2, Subparts A and C, a Notice of Opportunity for Comment and Request a Hearing Regarding the Nichols Ranch Uranium Project will be published in the *Federal Register* specifying a 60-day request period, starting from the date of publication of the notice. In addition, the Nichols Ranch license application request will be listed for the same 60-day period under the heading *Opportunities to Request a Hearing or Petition to Intervene* on the NRC's Public Website at the following web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing-license-applications.html#4>. If you have any questions, please contact me at david.brown@nrc.gov or (301) 415-7677.

M. Thomas

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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>.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

David D. Brown, Sr. Health Physicist  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,  
and Waste Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 04009067  
License No.: SUA-1597

cc:  
Dorran Larner (WDEQ)

M. Thomas

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

David D. Brown, Sr. Health Physicist  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,  
and Waste Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 04009067  
License No.: SUA-1597

cc:  
Dorran Larnar (WDEQ)

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