

October 30, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Bill Von Till, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Douglas Mandeville, Project Manager **/RA/**
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

On September 28, 2015, a Public Meeting was held with Power Resources, Inc., (PRI) doing business as Cameco Resources (Cameco), at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Cameco's recent efforts related to its request for alternate concentration limits for Mine Unit B. The List of Attendees; Meeting Agenda; Meeting Summary; and Cameco Presentation are enclosed.

Docket No: 40-8964
License No: SUA-1548

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees
2. Meeting Agenda
3. Meeting Summary
4. Cameco Presentation
5. Slides from 2013 National Mining Association Workshop

cc: Meeting Attendees (via email)

CONTACT: Douglas Mandeville, NMSS/DUWP
(301) 415-0724

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

FROM: Douglas Mandeville, Project Manager /RA/
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
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ADAMS Accession Number: ML15278A163

OFFICE	DUWP	DUWP	DUWP
NAME	D. Mandeville	S. Achten	D. Mandeville
DATE	10/30/2015	10/30/2015	10/30/2015

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: September 28, 2015

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North, Room T8C5
Rockville, Maryland

PURPOSE: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Cameco's recent efforts related to its alternate concentration limit request for Mine Unit B at the Smith Ranch Highland facility.

ATTENDEES:

See List of Attendees (Enclosure 1).

BACKGROUND:

Power Resources, Inc. (PRI), doing business as Cameco Resources (Cameco), currently operates the Smith Ranch-Highland Uranium Project (SRHUP) under the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Source Material License SUA-1548. On May 22, 2013, Cameco submitted a license amendment request for the NRC staff to approve alternate concentration limits (ACL) for Mine Unit B at SRHUP. During the acceptance review process, the NRC staff identified several issues with the application. The NRC staff discussed these issues with Cameco during a public meeting on December 3, 2013 (see ADAMS Accession Number ML14010A162). Since the December 3, 2013, public meeting, Cameco has undertaken a number of activities to address the issues identified by the NRC staff. Cameco requested this meeting to provide the NRC staff an update on its activities related to the Mine Unit B ACL application.

DISCUSSION:

NRC staff read the opening statement for the meeting. Attendees of the meeting were asked to provide brief introductions. NRC staff and Cameco provided an overview of the discussion topics planned for the meeting. Enclosure 2 contains the meeting agenda. Cameco then proceeded with its presentation slides, which are included in Enclosure 4.

A summary of the key discussion topics from the meeting is contained below.

The NRC staff stated that the applicable regulations for considering an ACL application are contained in 10 CFR Part 40, Appendix A, Criterion 5B(5) and that the related guidance can be found in Appendix K of NUREG 1620, Standard Review Plan for the Review of a Reclamation Plan for Mill Tailings Sites Under Title II of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act. Cameco asked the NRC staff to confirm its current position on the process for evaluating ground water restoration reviews. The NRC staff confirmed that slide 25 from Elise Striz' presentation at the 2013 National Mining Association workshop (see ADAMS Accession Number

ML13115A115; also included as Enclosure 5 for completeness) is the process that the NRC staff will use when evaluating Cameco's report. Cameco discussed the ACL process at conventional uranium mill tailings facilities. Cameco observed that, at these facilities, the point of compliance (POC) wells are located outside of the mill tailings. This differs from the approach the NRC staff envisions for ACLs at an in situ recovery facility. The NRC staff confirmed that for ACLs established at in situ recovery facilities, the POC wells are located within the ore zone and the point of exposure (POE) is the aquifer exemption boundary. The NRC staff stated that this approach is consistent with the approach that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken in its draft rulemaking for 40 CFR Part 192.

The NRC staff commented that the as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) analysis is critical in consideration of the ACL application. The NRC staff reminded Cameco that demonstration of asymptotic trends for the proposed ACLs to show that the licensee has exhausted options to meet the ground water protection standards is important. Additionally, the NRC staff pointed out that demonstration of use of best available technology is considered when evaluating an application for ACLs.

The NRC staff observed that the uranium levels in some of the perimeter monitoring wells are above background. The NRC staff asked Cameco how it plans to address this issue. Cameco is evaluating this particular issue. Cameco also stated that the aquifer exemption boundary for Mine Unit B has been moved beyond the existing monitor well ring. The NRC staff stated that documentation supporting this change should be included with the updated ACL application.

Cameco stated that its planned re-submittal of the ACL application is planned for the end of the second quarter in 2016, depending on the results of additional analyses Cameco is performing.

Several members of the public participated in the call. Questions and answers follow below.

QUESTION 1 – Where is the solid waste generated during ground water restoration disposed of?

ANSWER 1 – *The NRC staff stated that solid 11e.(2) by-product material generated at Smith Ranch is disposed of at an 11e.(2) disposal cell licensed by the NRC or an Agreement State.*

QUESTION 2 – What are the background levels in Mine Unit B?

ANSWER 2 – *The NRC staff stated that prior to injection of lixiviant, Cameco prepared hydrologic pump test package that documented the background ground water quality and aquifer parameters within Mine Unit B.*

QUESTION 3 – How is the NRC involved in the aquifer exemption process?

ANSWER 3 – *The NRC staff stated that it is not part of the aquifer exemption process. The EPA (or a delegated State) is responsible for the aquifer exemption process.*

ACTION ITEMS:

Two action items were identified during the meeting, one for Cameco and one for the NRC staff.

1. The NRC staff requested that Cameco provide brief monthly updates of its progress on the Mine Unit B ACL application to the NRC project manager.
2. Cameco requested that the NRC staff provide monthly updates on the status of its review once the application is submitted.

Both Cameco and the NRC staff agreed to complete these action items.

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:20 a.m. EST.

Meeting Attendees
Monday September 28, 2015
Room T8C5
9:00 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

TOPIC: Cameco's Mine Unit B ACL application

NAME	AFFILIATION
Doug Mandeville	U.S. NRC
Elise Striz	U.S. NRC
Bill VonTill	U.S. NRC
Ron Linton	U.S. NRC
Sarah Achten	U.S. NRC
Larry Reimann (phone)	Cameco
Mike Beshore (phone)	Cameco
Brent Berg (phone)	Cameco
Jean Lawlor (phone)	Cameco
Larry Teahon (phone)	Cameco Crow Butte Resources
Ryan Schierman (phone)	Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Angie Persico (phone)	Intera
Jack Fritz (phone)	WWC
Ruth Thomas (phone)	Environmentalist, Inc.

MEETING AGENDA
Cameco Resources Smith Ranch License Renewal
September 28, 2015

MEETING PURPOSE: Meeting to discuss Cameco's efforts related to the Mine Unit B ACL Application

MEETING PROCESS:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
9:00 a.m.	Introductions	All
	Current Status of Mine Unit B wellfield	Cameco
	Discussion of Restoration Criteria	Cameco
	Update on Ongoing Research Projects	Cameco
	Discussion Mine Unit B Sampling and ProUCL	Cameco
	Discussion of RAIs	Cameco
	Public Comment/Questions	Moderator
10:20 a.m.	Adjourn	