

December 24, 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
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Dr. Thomas J. Hirons
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
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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 Order dated June 24, 2015, the Board directed that, within 10 days of the submission of the last of CBR's RAI responses, the Staff should provide the Board with an estimate of when the Staff believes it will be able to give the Board new estimates for the completion dates of the Staff's Marsland Expansion Area (MEA) safety and environmental reviews.¹

On November 24, 2015, the Staff submitted a letter to the Board stating that the Staff had begun its acceptance review of CBR's remaining RAI responses. The Staff stated that it expected to complete the acceptance review of the RAI responses by December 18, 2015, in all areas but health physics, and that it will be unable to begin the acceptance review of health physics RAI responses until March 2016.

The Staff hereby informs the Board and parties that it has completed the acceptance review of RAI responses in all areas but health physics and can now provide the requested estimate for the completion dates of the MEA safety and environmental reviews. Contingent upon the Staff's acceptance of the health physics RAI responses in March 2016, the Staff expects to issue the draft Environmental Assessment by August 31, 2016, and the final Environmental Assessment and Safety Evaluation Report by November 30, 2016.

¹ Memorandum and Order (Request for Additional Update Regarding Timing of Issuance of Final NRC NRC Staff Safety and Environmental Documents) (June 24, 2015) (unpublished).

Respectfully submitted,

/Signed (electronically) by/

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Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 24th day of December, 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 24th day of December, 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/

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