



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 23, 2016

Ms. Kelly Morgan
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538-0522

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON LICENSING ACTIONS RELATED TO CAMECO RESOURCES SMITH RANCH URANIUM IN SITU RECOVERY OPERATIONS, LICENSE SUA-1548, CONVERSE, FREMONT, NATRONA, JOHNSON, AND CAMPBELL COUNTIES, WYOMING (TAC NO. L00783 and J00635)

Dear Ms. Morgan:

This letter is to provide you with an update on two licensing actions the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing for Power Resources, Inc. (doing business as Cameco Resources [Cameco]) and one expected future licensing action. These licensing actions relate to Cameco's Smith Ranch uranium in situ recovery (ISR) facility, which is authorized to operate under NRC source and byproduct material license SUA-1548. This license was first issued for commercial operation in 1992. The Smith Ranch ISR facility is located in Converse County, Wyoming. Under its license, Cameco is also authorized to perform uranium ISR activities at the associated remote satellite facilities: (1) the Gas Hills ISR satellite facility in Fremont and Natrona Counties, Wyoming; (2) the North Butte ISR satellite facility in Campbell County, Wyoming; and (3) the Ruth ISR satellite facility in Johnson County, Wyoming. Enclosure 1 provides a map showing the general locations of the Smith Ranch ISR facility and each of the remote ISR satellite facilities.

Licensing Action 1 - On February 1, 2012, Cameco submitted a request to renew its NRC source and byproduct material license. If approved, this request would allow Cameco to continue ISR operations at the Smith Ranch facility and at the three remote satellite facilities. The NRC staff accepted the application for detailed review on July 5, 2012, and by letter dated December 20, 2012, the NRC invited the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to be a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA). On May 2, 2013, the NRC staff issued a request for additional information (RAI) to Cameco, and by letters dated November 18, 2014, and April 21, 2015, Cameco responded to the NRC's RAI. The NRC staff is proceeding with its detailed review and anticipates re-initiating the formal NHPA Section 106 consultation process in the next two months. The NRC staff will contact you once that occurs.

Licensing Action 2 - On April 10, 2015, Cameco submitted a license amendment request to increase the ground water processing flow rate at the North Butte ISR satellite facility from 4,000 gallons per minute to 6,000 gallons per minute. The license amendment request may be found in the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at ML15132A085. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Cameco is proposing to operate

K. Morgan

- 2 -

equipment within existing onsite buildings and within previously approved ISR well fields at the requested higher flow rate, and thus the proposal does not include additional earth disturbing activity. The NRC staff has accepted this request for review and is proceeding with its detailed safety and environmental reviews.

Expected Future Licensing Action - By letter dated May 6, 2015, Cameco informed the NRC staff of a future license amendment request that it intends to submit to expand the footprint of operations at its North Butte ISR satellite facility. Cameco refers to this expansion area as Brown Ranch Tract 1. The NRC staff understands that Cameco plans to submit this request in mid-2016. If the application is accepted for detailed review, the NRC staff would offer an opportunity to request a hearing and conduct safety and environmental reviews of the application. The NRC staff will also initiate a formal NHPA Section 106 consultation process for this action once the detailed review is in progress.

Should you have any questions about these actions, or wish to learn more about Cameco's Smith Ranch facility, please contact me at douglas.mandeville@nrc.gov or by phone at 301-415-0724.

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 ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Douglas T. Mandeville, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

Enclosure:
Map of Smith Ranch and Associated Satellites

Letters sent to:
Tribal/THPO list for Smith Ranch License Renewal

cc: Robin Jones and Luke McMahan (WDEQ)
Larry Reimann (Cameco)

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Douglas T. Mandeville, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
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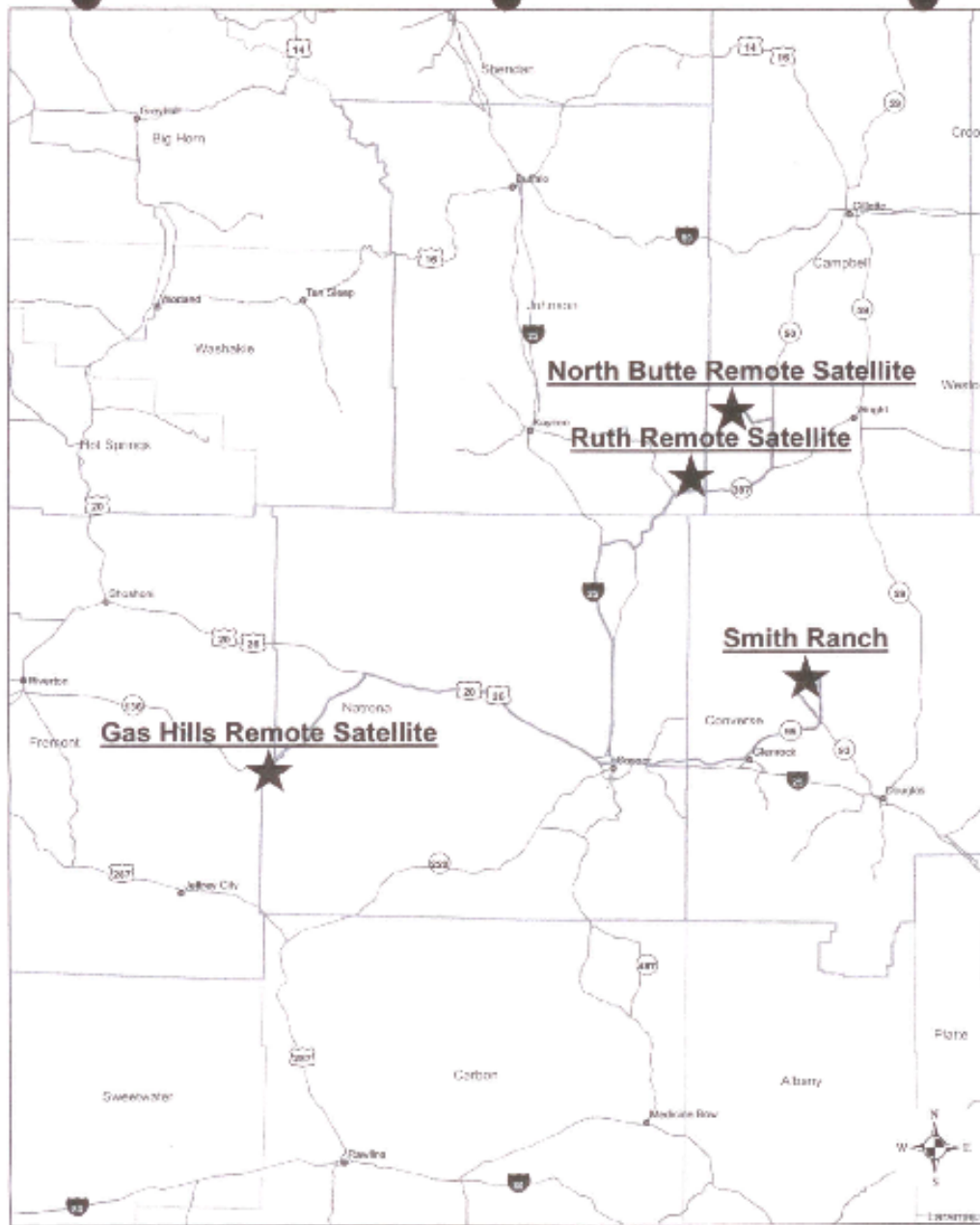
cc: Robin Jones and Luke McMahan (WDEQ)
Larry Reimann (Cameco)

DISTRIBUTION:

ML16076A337 (pkg.)

| OFFICE | DUWP/URLB | DUWP/URLB | FCSE | FSTLB | DUWP/URLB | OGC (NLO) | DUWP/URLB |
|--------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| NAME | DMandeville | SAchten | JPark | STalley | BVonTill | JOlmstead | DMandeville |
| DATE | 1/13/16 | 1/13/16 | 1/21/16 | 2/18/16 | 2/8/16 | 2/26/16 | 3/23/16 |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY



LEGEND

★ SMITH RANCH PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED SATELLITES

— PRIMARY COMCO TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

— INTERSTATE, STATE AND COUNTY ROADS

| REVISIONS | | |
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Cameco Resources
NRC SOURCE MATERIAL
LICENSE SUA-1548

SMITH RANCH AND REMOTE SATELLITES

FIGURE 1.1
GENERAL SUA-1548 LOCATION MAP

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| SIZE | SCALE | DEPARTMENT | CURRENT NO. |
| 11x17 | SEC GRAPHIC SCALE | | 0 |

CUYD02201404 NRC License Renewal/PP Worksheet/GENERAL LOCATION

List of Tribal/THPO Addresses – Smith Ranch License Renewal

Blackfeet Tribe

Mr. Harry Barnes, Chairman
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

THPO

Mr. John Murray
Blackfeet Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Browning, MT 59417

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

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THPO

Mr. Max Bear
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

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Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

THPO

Mr. Steve Vance
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Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Cultural Program

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P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Mr. David Nelson, Director
Environmental Protection Department
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
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Chippewa Cree Tribe

Mr. Richard (Rick) Morsette, Chairman
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Box Elder, MT 59521

THPO

Alvin Windy Boy, Sr.
Cultural Resource Preservation Office
Chippewa Cree Tribe
RR 1, Box 544
Box Elder, MT 59521

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe

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Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe
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THPO

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Crow Tribe

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THPO

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 Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation
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 Crow Agency, MT 59022

Burial Preservation Director

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 Crow Agency, MT 59022

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

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THPO

Mr. Darrell Zephier
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
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Eastern Shoshone Tribe

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 Eastern Shoshone Tribe
 P.O. Box 538
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THPO

Mr. Wilfred Ferris
 Eastern Shoshone Tribe
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe

Mr. Anthony Reider, President
 Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe
 603 West Broad Avenue
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 Flandreau, SD 57028-0283

THPO:

Mr. J.B. Weston
 Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 P.O. Box 283
 Flandreau, SD 57028-0283

Fort Belknap Community

Mr. Mark L. Azure, President
 Fort Belknap Tribe
 RR1 Box 66
 Harlem, MT 59526-9455

THPO

Mr. Michael Black Wolf
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 Harlem, MT 59526-9455

Environmental Protection Manager:

Ms. Ina Nez Perce
 Fort Belknap Indian Community
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Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux

Mr. Rusty Stafne, Chairman
 Fort Peck Tribes
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THPO

Mr. Darrell "Curley" Youpee
 Fort Peck Tribes
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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 Poplar, MT 59255-1027

Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma

Ms. Amber Toppah, Chairwoman
 Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
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THPO

Ms. Jamie Eskew
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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NAGPRA Representative:

Ms. Amie Tah-bone
 Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
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Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Mr. Kevin Wright, Vice Chairman
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
 187 Oyate Circle
 Lower Brule, SD 57548

THPO

Ms. Clair Green
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
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Lower Sioux Tribe

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THPO

Ms. Grace Goldtooth Campos
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Northern Arapaho Tribe

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THPO

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Northern Cheyenne

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THPO

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THPO

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Rosebud Sioux

Mr. William Kindle, Chairman
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THPO

Mr. Russell Eagle Bear
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Santee Sioux Nation

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THPO

Mr. Richard Thomas
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
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Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

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Environmental Program Manager

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Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

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THPO

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Spirit Lake Tribe

Ms. Myra Pearson, Chairperson
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THPO

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Standing Rock Sioux

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THPO

Ms. Kelly Morgan
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Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
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Three Affiliated Tribes

Mr. Mark N. Fox, Chairman
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation
Three Affiliated Tribes
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New Town, ND 58763

THPO

Mr. Elgin Crows Breast
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation
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Three Affiliated Tribes
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Compliance Officer

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Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Mr. Richard McCloud, Chairman
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THPO

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Ute Tribe

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Cultural Rights/THPO

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Yankton Sioux Tribe

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THPO

Mr. Perry Little
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