



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

August 22, 2016

Mr. Rich Bush, Site Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW OF DRAFT
LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE PLAN FOR UMETCO MINERALS
CORPORATION'S GAS HILLS EAST, WYOMING SITE
(DOCKET NO. 040-0299)

Dear Mr. Bush:

By letter dated August 6, 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a draft Long-Term Surveillance Plan (LTSP) for the Umetco Minerals Corporation's (Umetco's) Gas Hills East site in Natrona and Fremont counties Wyoming (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML092250176). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provided comments on this and subsequent drafts of the LTSP, but, due to tailings pile cover construction and groundwater issues at the Gas Hills East site, the NRC and DOE staffs agreed in 2014 that the NRC staff would suspend our review of the draft LTSPs until the issues were resolved. Currently, issues associated with the cover have been resolved, but the NRC is continuing to work with Umetco to resolve groundwater issues at the site. We believe that when the groundwater issues, and any other issues that may surface during our ongoing review, are resolved, the DOE should submit a new draft LTSP for the Gas Hills East site. This new draft LTSP would incorporate any changes necessitated by new information developed for the site and reflect the most recent information developed about the groundwater hydrology at the site.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 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>.

R. Bush

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at 301-415-6749 or by email at Dominick.Orlando@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dominick A. Orlando, Senior Project Manager
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

R. Bush

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML16218A144

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