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SECRETARY

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

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June 14, 1999

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKING AND  
ADJUDICATION STAFF

Ms. Diane Curran  
Counsel to ENDAUM and SRIC  
Harmon, Curran, Spielberg  
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1726 M Street, NW  
Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036

SERVED JUN 15 1999

Dear Ms. Curran:

On June 17, 1999, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting on uranium recovery regulation at its headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Participants at the meeting will include governmental entities or state-related organizations, organizations which represent a broad range of industry interests, and an environmental organization. The purpose of the meeting is, first, to discuss three recent Commission papers in the area of uranium recovery regulation: "Draft Rulemaking Plan: Domestic Licensing of Uranium and Thorium Recovery Facilities -- Proposed New Part 41" (SECY-99-11); "Use of Uranium Mill Tailings Impoundments for the Disposal of Waste Other than 11e.(2) Byproduct Material and Reviews of Applications to Process Material Other than Natural Uranium Ores" (SECY-99-12); and "Recommendations on Ways to Improve the Efficiency of NRC Regulation at *in Situ* Leach Uranium Recovery Facilities" (SECY-99-13). In addition, the meeting will discuss interpretations of current requirements, such as those on alternate feed criteria and groundwater regulation, and the need, if any, for additional NRC regulations in this area.

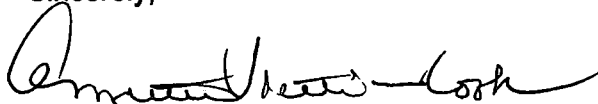
All of these are generic issues, of broad applicability to the NRC's activities, and the purpose of the June 17 meeting is to discuss them on a generic basis. At the same time, however, aspects of some of these same or related issues are currently being litigated in three adjudications (informal proceedings conducted under 10 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart L, of the NRC's procedures) now in progress before Presiding Officers: *Hydro Resources, Inc., International Uranium Corp. -- IUSA* (MLA-4), and *International Uranium Corp. -- IUSA* (MLA-5). Accordingly, to assure that the June 17 discussions do not result in any prejudice to the ongoing adjudications, this cautionary letter is being sent to all participants in the June 17 meeting, with copies to the service list in each of the three adjudications.

Because the Commission is the appellate body in each of the pending adjudications, it will not entertain, in the June 17 meeting, any arguments or discussions of case-specific issues currently in litigation before Presiding Officers. Participants are cautioned not to discuss specific fact situations and specific issues involved in those proceedings. The Commission wishes to emphasize that the June 17 meeting is to be restricted to the consideration of generic issues, and the Commission will not hesitate to enforce this restriction.

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Nevertheless, the Commission recognizes the possibility that participants in the meeting may make statements or comments that are closely enough related to issues involved in the three ongoing proceedings as to raise concerns on the part of parties to those proceedings. For that reason, the Commission wishes to give notice to the parties to the adjudications that the meeting has been scheduled; to inform them that they are welcome to attend; to inform them as well that the full transcript of the meeting, as well as any materials proffered by the meeting participants, will promptly be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room; and that if circumstances should so warrant, the parties to the adjudications will be provided an opportunity to submit written comments on the statements and discussions that take place at the June 17 meeting to the dockets in the pending adjudications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette L. Vietti-Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
HYDRO RESOURCES, INC.

Docket No.(s) 40-8968-ML

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LTR SECY TO CURRAN RE PUB MTG have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

Office of Commission Appellate  
Adjudication  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge  
Peter B. Bloch  
Presiding Officer  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop - T-3 F23  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge  
Thomas D. Murphy  
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Docket No.(s)40-8968-ML  
LTR SECY TO CURRAN RE PUB MTG

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Administrative Judge  
Robin Brett  
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Roderick Ventura  
Samuel D. Gollis  
DNA - People's Legal Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 306  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dated at Rockville, Md. this  
15 day of June 1999

  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

INTERNATIONAL URANIUM (USA)  
CORPORATION (IUSA)  
(Receipt of Material from  
Tonawanda, New York)

Docket No.(s) 40-8681-MLA-4

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LTR SECY TO CURRAN RE PUB MTG have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

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Administrative Judge  
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Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge  
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Dated at Rockville, Md. this  
15 day of June 1999

*Adrian T. Byrdson*  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

INTERNATIONAL URANIUM (USA)  
CORPORATION (IUSA)  
(Request for Material License  
Amendment)

Docket No.(s) 40-8681-MLA-5

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LTR SECY TO CURRAN RE PUB MTG have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

Office of Commission Appellate  
Adjudication  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

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Administrative Judge  
Richard F. Cole  
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Concerned Citizens of San Juan County  
P.O. Box 261  
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Docket No.(s)40-8681-MLA-5  
LTR SECY TO CURRAN RE PUB MTG

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2300 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dated at Rockville, Md. this  
15 day of June 1999

*Adria T. Byrdson*  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission