

Kennecott Uranium Company
Sweetwater Uranium Project
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September 1, 2016

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Andrea Kock, Deputy Director
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Ms. Kock:

**Subject: Sweetwater Uranium Project – Docket Number: 40-8584
Source Material License SUA-1350 - Responses to Public Conference Call of August 18,
2016 Specific to License Condition 11.3**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting a review of the Kennecott Uranium Company (Kennecott) Sweetwater Uranium Project request for a ten-year renewal of Source Material License SUA-1350 that was submitted on July 24, 2014. The NRC provided Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) in letters dated July 13, 2015 and February 12, 2016. On August 18, 2016, a public conference call involving Kennecott and the agency was held to discuss specific license conditions that will be modified as part of the license renewal process. One condition that is planned to be modified is License Condition 11.3 that defines the site's Corrective Action Program (CAP). This letter provides a commitment and a schedule for providing a plan to better characterize the existing plume along its western margin (License Condition 11.3) and modify the site's CAP in accordance with characterization data to be acquired in the future.

With this letter, Kennecott commits to a characterization plan. Facility operations by the previous site licensee (Minerals Exploration Company (MEC)) resulted in fluids from mill operations entering the Battle Spring Aquifer via the unlined catchment basin and via leaks in the tailing impoundment's single Hypalon® liner. These process fluid-influenced waters have resulted in a plume, that is, a small area of the Battle Spring aquifer with discrete water quality parameters measurably above background levels but which in cases do not exceed drinking water standards or are not listed as National Primary Drinking Water Standards. Kennecott operates a CAP to control the extent of the plume. The CAP includes pumpback wells to recapture mill-influenced fluids, and monitoring wells which allow evaluation of the efficacy of the CAP. Questions exist regarding the extents of the western margin of this plume. The following steps will be implemented by Kennecott to address issues regarding the plume:

1. Prepare a plan to better characterize the western margins of the plume. The plan will address the phasing, number, locations, depth(s), and completion interval(s) of monitoring wells, as well as sampling quality assurance/quality control, and sampling/testing parameters. The plan will reference the recommendations made in the responses to the above-mentioned RAIs prepared by Telesto Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Kennecott Uranium Company.
2. Submit the plan to the agency for review and comment
3. Implement the plan as proposed and modified following agency comment. Implementation will consist of monitoring well completion, sampling, and data analysis
4. Submit to the agency, the data and analysis/characterization for review and comment

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5. Continue characterization plan phasing as applicable
6. Modify the CAP as necessary based on the results of the analysis of the characterization data and the agency's comments. In submitting the modified CAP, Kennecott will request that the ability to add or remove pumpback wells from service with the goal of improving the performance of the CAP be retained in License Condition 11.3.

The timeline to implement these six steps is presented in Table 1.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Oscar Paulson
Facility Supervisor

Cc: James Webb – Project Manager – (2)
Director – USNRC DNMS – Region IV (w/o enc.)
Rich Atkinson

Table 1 Anticipated Schedule for Characterizing the Plume's Western Margin

Step	Anticipated Date	Comment
1. Prepare characterization plan	September 16, 2016	Submittal date to NRC
2. NRC review/comment	Begin September 16, 2016	Anticipate 30 days for review and comment
3. Implement characterization plan (drilling, sampling, and data analysis)	Completed within seven (7) months following NRC's review of the characterization plan.	Arrange for drilling in advance of receipt of NRC comments; collect and analyze 3 months of data. Timeframe initiation dependent on NRC review schedule.
4. Submit characterization data and analysis	Completed within seven (7) months following NRC's review of the characterization plan.	Submit at completion of step 3. Timeframe dependent on NRC review schedule for step 2.
5. Continue characterization plan phasing, depending upon NRC comments and further review of data as applicable	Completed within four (4) months following NRC's review of characterization data.	
6. Modify CAP as necessary	Completed within four (4) months following completion of NRC's review of characterization data.	

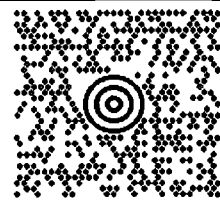
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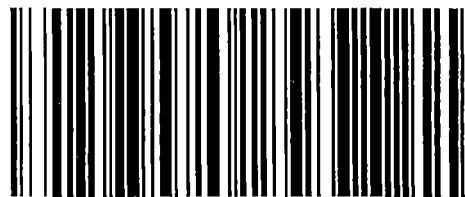
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