



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

April 19, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Bill Von Till, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,  
and Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Douglas Mandeville, Project Manager */RA/*  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,  
and Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

On April 6, 2017, a Public Meeting was held with Power Resources, Inc., doing business as Cameco Resources, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Cameco's responses to the NRC staff's request for additional information on Cameco's license renewal request for the Smith Ranch Highland facility. The List of Attendees; Meeting Agenda; and Meeting Summary are enclosed.

Docket Numbers: 40-8964  
License Numbers: SUA-1548

Enclosures:  
1. Meeting Summary  
2. Meeting Attendees  
3. Meeting Agenda

cc: Meeting Attendees (via email)

CONTACT: Douglas Mandeville, NMSS/DUWP  
(301) 415-0724

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY, Dated April 19, 2017

**DISTRIBUTION:** AKock

**ADAMS Accession Number: ML17101A469**

<b>OFFICE</b>	DUWP	DUWP	DUWP
<b>NAME</b>	D. Mandeville	S. Achten	D. Mandeville
<b>DATE</b>	04/12/2017	04/13/2017	04/19/2017

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## MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: April 6, 2017

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Two White Flint North, Room T8C5c  
Rockville, Maryland

PURPOSE: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Cameco's responses to the NRC staff's request for additional information on Cameco's license renewal request for the Smith Ranch Highland facility.

ATTENDEES:

See List of Attendees (Enclosure 2).

BACKGROUND:

Power Resources, Inc., doing business as Cameco Resources (Cameco), currently operates the Smith Ranch Highland uranium in situ recovery facility in Wyoming. Smith Ranch Highland is authorized to operate by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under Source Material License SUA-1548. This license is currently in timely renewal.

The NRC staff issued its request for additional information (RAI) for Cameco's license renewal request on May 2, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML13098A040). Cameco submitted its responses to the NRC staff's request on November 18, 2014 (environmental report, ADAMS Accession Number ML14353A314) and April 21, 2015 (technical report, ADAMS Accession Number ML16063A418). The NRC staff documented its acceptance review of the remaining RAI responses in a letter dated May 2, 2016 (ADAMS Accession Number ML16109A207). The NRC staff's acceptance review identified that Cameco provided sufficient information on 88 of the 115 RAI responses. The remaining 27 RAI responses do not provide the NRC staff with sufficient information to proceed with its review. Cameco is in the process of revising its responses to the remaining 27 RAIs so that the NRC staff can proceed with its review of the license renewal request.

DISCUSSION:

NRC staff read the opening statement for the meeting. Attendees of the meeting were asked to provide brief introductions. NRC staff provided an overview of the discussion topics planned for the meeting. Enclosure 3 contains the meeting agenda.

A summary of the key discussion points from the meeting is contained below. In this meeting summary, the RAI numbers correspond to the May 2, 2013, RAI package (ADAMS Accession Number ML13098A040). A brief explanation of why the NRC staff did not consider the RAI

response to be sufficient can be found in the NRC staff's May 2, 2016, letter (ADAMS Accession Number ML16109A207).

**RAI 12**

The license renewal requests identified several wellfields where the past regulatory review and approval status is unclear. For wellfields that have not been previously reviewed and approved, Cameco needs to identify the wellfield location, target ore zone, as well as the overlying and underlying aquifers. NUREG 1569 identifies the information needed for the staff to be able to complete its review. The NRC staff is not asking for the information that would typically be provided in a wellfield package, rather, the NRC staff is seeking to understand basic information about the proposed wellfields.

Cameco stated that they have information to be able to address the RAI.

**RAI 13**

This RAI relates to Cameco's desire to not monitor the underlying aquifer at Mine Unit 1 at Gas Hills. The NRC staff understands that the sand underlying Mine Unit 1 at Gas Hills may be the target ore zone in adjacent mine units. However, such a scenario would not preclude using the sand underlying Mine Unit 1 from being monitored. The NRC staff recognizes that further clarity on the target ore zone in Mine Unit 1 at Gas Hills may be helpful.

Cameco understands the issue, however, additional discussions with the NRC staff may be necessary prior to submittal of the RAI response.

**RAI 18**

This RAI relates to well completions in multiple horizons within an individual mine unit. Cameco stated that it may seek to pursue this approach in several mine units. The RAI response should clearly explain where monitor wells will be located, how baseline water quality in the overlying and underlying monitoring wells will be established, and Cameco's plans for restoring in stacked sands.

Cameco understands and recognizes that information to address this RAI may already exist within its WDEQ permit for Smith Ranch Highland.

**RAIs 22 and 23**

These RAIs relate to the casing leak investigation and PSR-2 at Smith Ranch Highland. The NRC staff recognizes that both of these performance issues are well documented in ADAMS. Sufficient information exists for the NRC staff to be able to describe these performance issues. However, the NRC staff observes that Cameco has continued its efforts to address these issues and they may be able to provide additional insights on how the casing leak investigation and PSR-2 are being addressed.

Cameco understands the NRC staff's position and may be able to update these RAI responses.

**RAIs 24 and 29**

These RAIs relate to the potential of operating in an unconfined aquifer. The NRC staff observes that Cameco's RAI response explains that it does not plan to operate in an unconfined aquifer. However, the text of the application does not contain the same statements.

Cameco understands the NRC staff's position.

**RAI 31 and 32**

These RAIs related to operation of Mine Unit 5 at Gas Hills remote satellite and the possible interference of that operation on the approved alternate concentration limit at the adjacent UMETCO conventional uranium mill site. The NRC staff recognizes that Cameco's plans for operating the Gas Hills remote satellite have been impacted by the current uranium market. Despite the current uranium market and Cameco's plans for the Gas Hills remote satellite, the RAI responses do not adequately address the NRC staff's concern. The NRC staff recognizes that additional discussion on these RAIs may be necessary.

Cameco stated that to respond to these RAIs it need to evaluate the operation of Gas Hills Mine Unit 5 with respect to the UMETCO site to develop a better understanding.

**RAI 52**

This RAI relates to identification and information related to the wells currently used for the environmental monitoring program at Smith Ranch Highland. The RAI response does not identify well characteristics or use for several of the monitoring wells.

Cameco understands what information should be provided to allow the staff to proceed.

**RAI 53**

This RAI relates to water supply wells to be monitored that are located within 2 kilometers (km) of license SUA-1548. The NRC staff is asking for information on all private wells within 2 km. The NRC staff recognizes that additional discussions may be needed to clarify this RAI.

Cameco is familiar with what type of information may be needed to address this RAI, but agrees that additional discussion may be necessary.

**RAI 58**

This RAI relates to stability monitoring and demonstration of ground water stability after ground water restoration efforts are complete. The NRC staff's position is that ground water monitoring should continue until stability is demonstrated for 1 consecutive year.

Cameco understands the NRC staff's position.

Aside from the RAIs, the NRC staff wanted to clarify one administrative issue. The Mine Unit B ACL application was not accepted for review by the NRC staff. Therefore, it is not currently under review. This should be corrected in the RAI response.

Cameco understands the NRC staff's comment.

No members of the public participated in the meeting, therefore, there were no questions or comments from the public. Additionally, no paper copies of information was shared between Cameco and the NRC staff.

ACTION ITEMS:

The following action items were identified during the meeting:

1. The NRC staff will complete the meeting summary within 30 working days.
2. Cameco will identify a schedule for submittal of responses to the hydrogeology related RAI responses.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:20 p.m. Eastern Time.

Meeting Attendees  
Date: Thursday April 6, 2017  
Room T8C5c  
1:00 pm to 2:20 pm

Topic: Discuss Response to NRC Staff Request for Additional Information on Smith Ranch License Renewal Request

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Doug Mandeville	NRC
Elise Striz	NRC
Jim Park	NRC
Mike Thomas	Cameco (via telephone)
Ken Garoutte	Cameco (via telephone)
Mike Beshore	Cameco (via telephone)
Jim Shriver	Cameco (via telephone)

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA:

Technical meeting with Cameco to discuss response to NRC staff request for additional information regarding the Smith Ranch License Renewal

April 6, 2017 1:00 PM to 03:00 PM  
NRC Two White Flint North, T8C5c  
11545 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD

MEETING PROCESS:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1:00 p.m.	Introductions	All
	Opening Remarks	NRC
1:05 p.m.	Technical Discussion of Response to NRC Staff Request for Additional Information	NRC and Cameco
2:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks	
2:50 p.m.	Questions from public to NRC (if any)	
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	