



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

November 7, 2017

Mr. Larry Reimann
Cameco Resources
Smith Ranch Highland Operation
P.O. Box 1210
Glenrock, WY 82637

SUBJECT: STATUS OF REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESPONSES
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR SMITH RANCH HIGHLAND
URANIUM IN-SITU RECOVERY FACILITY, CONVESE COUNTY, WYOMING
(CAC J00635)

Dear Mr. Reimann:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's review schedule of Power Resources, Inc., doing business as Cameco Resources, (Cameco) request to renew Smith Ranch Highland Uranium Project source and byproduct materials license SUA-1548. As was the case in our last correspondence related to this review, at this time the NRC staff does not have adequate information to complete a safety evaluation report (SER) or an environmental assessment (EA).

Cameco's last correspondence related to this review, dated January 10, 2017 and available under Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML17025A075, identified June 30, 2017, as the date by which Cameco would provide request for additional information (RAI) responses to non health physics related RAIs. The NRC staff supported a public meeting with Cameco on April 6, 2017, to discuss Cameco's RAI responses related to hydrogeology. During this meeting, the NRC staff was able to: (1) clarify the intent of its RAIs; and (2) identify possible ways that Cameco could address the RAIs. The meeting summary (ADAMS Accession Number ML17101A469) discusses this in more detail. The NRC staff is available for additional discussions on the hydrogeology related RAI responses.

In its January 10, 2017 letter, Cameco expressed its desire to defer its responses on health physics related RAIs until after an uranium recovery industry wide discussion focused on health physics issues. NRC and members of the uranium recovery industry, including Cameco, participated in an NRC public meeting on September 14, 2017. A summary of this meeting is available in ADAMS under accession ML17262A496. The September 2017 meeting identified reasonable paths forward for Cameco to address the NRC staff's remaining health physics related RAIs. The NRC staff has also discussed these paths forward in more detail in its April 14, 2017 letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML17037D030). It is not a requirement that Cameco adopt one of the previously approved plans; Cameco should consider these as potential starting points and modify to better reflect the conditions present at Smith Ranch.

As you are aware, the State of Wyoming is in the process of becoming an NRC Agreement State for uranium recovery activities. In order to ensure a smooth transition, the NRC staff intends to complete its review of this license renewal request prior to the turnover of its oversight responsibilities to the State of Wyoming. However, this will require Cameco to address the remaining RAI responses by January 19, 2018. In order to meet this date, it is essential that Cameco and the NRC staff engage in discussions about the RAI responses to ensure that Cameco is effectively addressing the NRC staff's concerns. The NRC staff will schedule a series of public meetings to discuss the outstanding RAI responses.

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>.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact Douglas Mandeville at (301) 415-0724 or via email at Douglas.Mandeville@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John R. Tappert, Director
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

cc: Robin Jones, WDEQ
Ryan Schierman, WDEQ
Brent Berg, Cameco

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DATE November 7, 2017

ADAMS Accession No. ML17174A904

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DATE	11/7/17	11/7/17	11/7/17

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