



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

May 11, 2018

Randall Scott, President
Rare Element Resources
P.O. Box 271049
Littleton, CO 80127

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF
RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE APPLICATION
FOR THE BEAR LODGE PROJECT

Dear Mr. Scott,

By letter dated April 9, 2018, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18131A166) you requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extend the suspension of its review of the Rare Element Resources (RER) license application for the Bear Lodge Project until September 30, 2019. You stated that this extension is necessary to further develop your process and separation technology for the production of rare earth elements.

The NRC staff has reviewed your request and will continue to suspend its review accordingly. However, by September 30, 2019, you must inform the NRC whether you are withdrawing the license application or want the NRC to resume its review. If the application is withdrawn, and RER decides at a later date that it wants NRC to resume work on the Bear Lodge Project, RER will be required to submit a new license application.

While the suspension is extended, NRC staff will be assigned to other projects and there may be some delay should RER want the NRC staff to resume its license application review. Upon receiving notification that RER wants the NRC review to resume, the NRC Project Manager for the Bear Lodge Project will schedule a meeting at NRC Headquarters for RER to provide an overview of the Bear Lodge Project and identify revisions to the May 2015 license application (ADAMS Accession No. ML15132A726). Based on the extent of these revisions, the NRC staff will determine whether it can resume its review of the May 2015 application or if RER will be required to submit a new license application.

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>.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kenneth Kalman, the project manager for the RER Bear Lodge Project. Mr. Kalman can be contacted by email at kenneth.kalman@nrc.gov or by telephone at 301-415-6664.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Koenick, Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs

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