



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

September 27, 2018

Mr. Scott Schierman
Sr. Health Safety and
Environmental Specialist
Uranium One, USA, Inc.
907 N. Poplar Street, Suite 260
Casper, WY 82601

SUBJECT: URANIUM ONE, USA, INC., WILLOW CREEK PROJECT, REVIEW OF FINAL STATUS DECOMMISSIONING REPORT SUPPORTING RELEASE OF MINE UNITS 1 THROUGH 9 AND TWO ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS AT THE IRIGARAY SITE FOR UNRESTRICTED FUTURE USE AND ADDITIONAL SOIL SAMPLES TAKEN OCTOBER 2017 AND MAY 2018

Dear Mr. Schierman:

By letter dated August 7, 2015, Uranium One, USA, Inc. (Uranium One) submitted the "Final Status Decommissioning Report Supporting Release of Mine Units 1 through 9 and Two Associated Buildings at the Irigaray Site for Unrestricted Future Use" to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review (NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Package No. ML15231A096).

The NRC staff contractor, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) performed an on-site confirmatory survey on July 26-28, 2016, and submitted the results to the NRC in a letter dated January 17, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17027A224). By letter dated February 13, 2017, NRC staff determined that the site could not be released for unrestricted use and could not approve the final decommissioning of Irigaray Mine Units 1-9.

In October 2017, NRC staff from Region IV took an additional 63 soil samples at the site. These samples were analyzed by ORISE and the results can be found in reports dated December 4, 2017 and January 4, 2018, respectively (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML18019A035 and ML18005A143). Fifteen additional soil samples were taken by Region IV staff in May 2018. The results of all 78 samples analyzed by ORISE can be found in a report dated August 23, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18235A555).

Based on the results of the above referenced soil samples, the NRC staff cannot approve the final surface decommissioning of Irigaray Mine Units 1-9 since not all samples meet the radium release criteria of less than 7 pCi/g for all samples. In addition, NRC staff has concerns regarding unanalyzed piping below the large utility building, as described in the September 2018 NRC inspection report (ADAMS Accession No. ML18257A147).

The NRC staff notes that if the Wyoming Agreement State Agreement is signed and becomes effective on October 1, 2018, and this site will be regulated by the State of Wyoming. The NRC staff requests that Uranium One coordinate additional decommissioning activities with the State of Wyoming.

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 ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me, either by telephone at (301) 415-7777, or by e-mail at Ron.Linton@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ron C. Linton, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 040-08502
License No. SUA-1341

cc: Luke McMahan, PG (WDEQ)
Ryan Schierman, (WDEQ)

SUBJECT: URANIUM ONE, USA, INC., WILLOW CREEK PROJECT, REVIEW OF FINAL STATUS DECOMMISSIONING REPORT SUPPORTING RELEASE OF MINE UNITS 1 THROUGH 9 AND TWO ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS AT THE IRIGARAY SITE FOR UNRESTRICTED FUTURE USE AND ADDITIONAL SOIL SAMPLES TAKEN OCTOBER 2017 AND MAY 2018
DATE September 27, 2018

DISTRIBUTION: J. Katanic, R-IV

ADAMS Accession No.: ML18250A154

*** via email**

OFFICE	NMSS/DUWP	NMSS/DUWP	RIV	NMSS/DUWP	NMSS/DUWP
NAME	RLinton	SAchten*	LGersey*	BVonTill	RLinton
DATE	9/20/18	9/24/18	9/25/18	9/27/18	9/27/18

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY