CAMECO RESOURCES
CROW BUTTE OPERATION

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June 24, 2019

40-8943

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

ATTN: Document Control Desk Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Mechanical Integrity Test failure at P5020-61

Dear Document Control:

On June 21, 2019, during routine 5-year Mechanical Integrity Testing (MIT), well number P5020-61 in Mine Unit 11, Wellhouse 61 failed the MIT criteria at the Crow Butte Resources (CBR) mine site. Kory Winters, of the NDEQ Chadron field office, and Ron Burrows, NRC Project Manager, were notified concerning this well on June 21, 2019.

Following the unsuccessful MIT, the bottom MIT packer became stuck in the well, so CBO has not been able to isolate cause of the failure through additional pressure tests. On June 24, 2019, CBO was able to camera the well and noted that the sleeve located at the 15' level is cracked, which is likely the cause of the MIT failure. The water levels of Commercial Monitor wells (CM wells) in the area at a similar elevation range between 300 and 400 feet. Because P5020-61 is a producer, it is very unlikely that the water level in this well would ever approach the 15' level.

This well was last successfully mechanical integrity tested in July 2014. On August 25, 2012 this well was turned off and taken out of service. The well has not been in operation since the most recent successful MIT. The well casing depth is 760 feet with a K-packer set at 714 feet. The static water level of the shallow monitor wells in this area is 75 to 100 feet deep.

Upon review of this data with Amanda Jones of the NDEQ Lincoln office, it was determined that CBO will attempt to repair the well. The well will then be re-MIT'd to ensure that the repair is sufficient. If CBO is unable to recover the bottom MIT packer or repair the well, then it will be abandoned according to approved procedure. Due to the shallow depth of the apparent failed sleeve (15 feet), no other testing will be conducted.

A graph of the sampling results for the three nearest Shallow Monitor Wells, SM9-1, SM9-2, and SM11-3 is included for your review.

NM5520

If you have any questions or concerns on this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 308-665-2215 ext. 117.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Nelson

Walt Nelson
SHEQ Coordinator

Enclosure

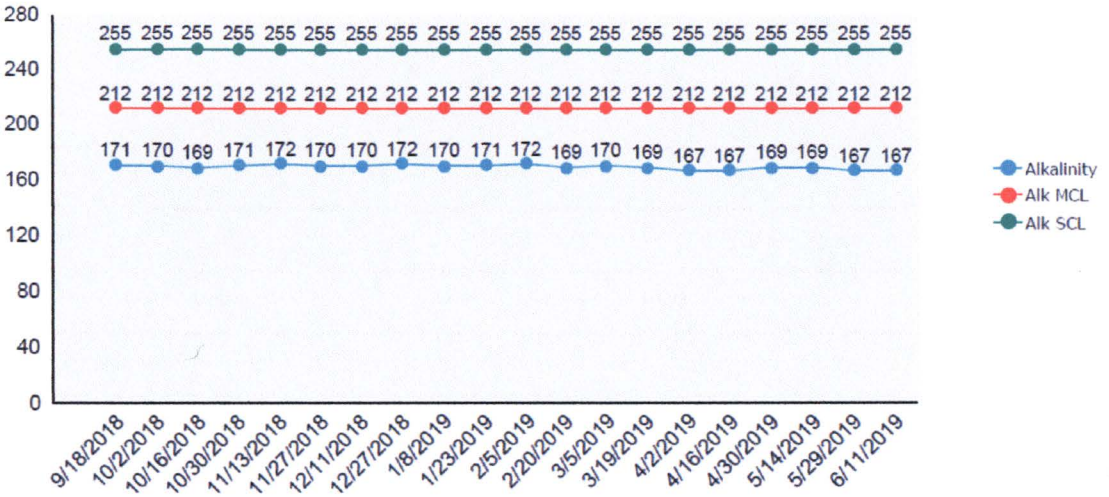
cc: NRC – Deputy Director, Division of Decommissioning
CBO – File

ec: CBO - File

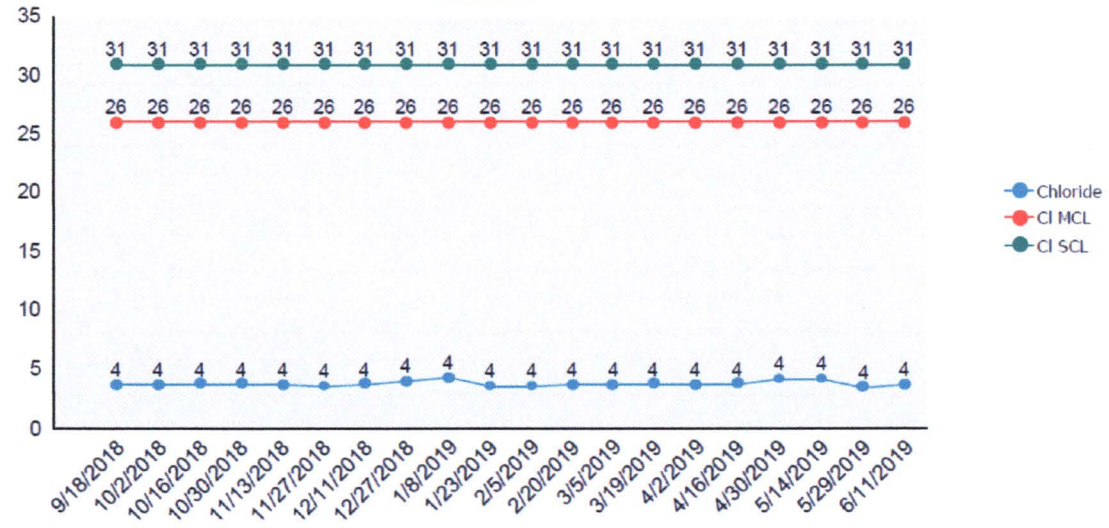
SM9-1
6/24/2019

SM09-001

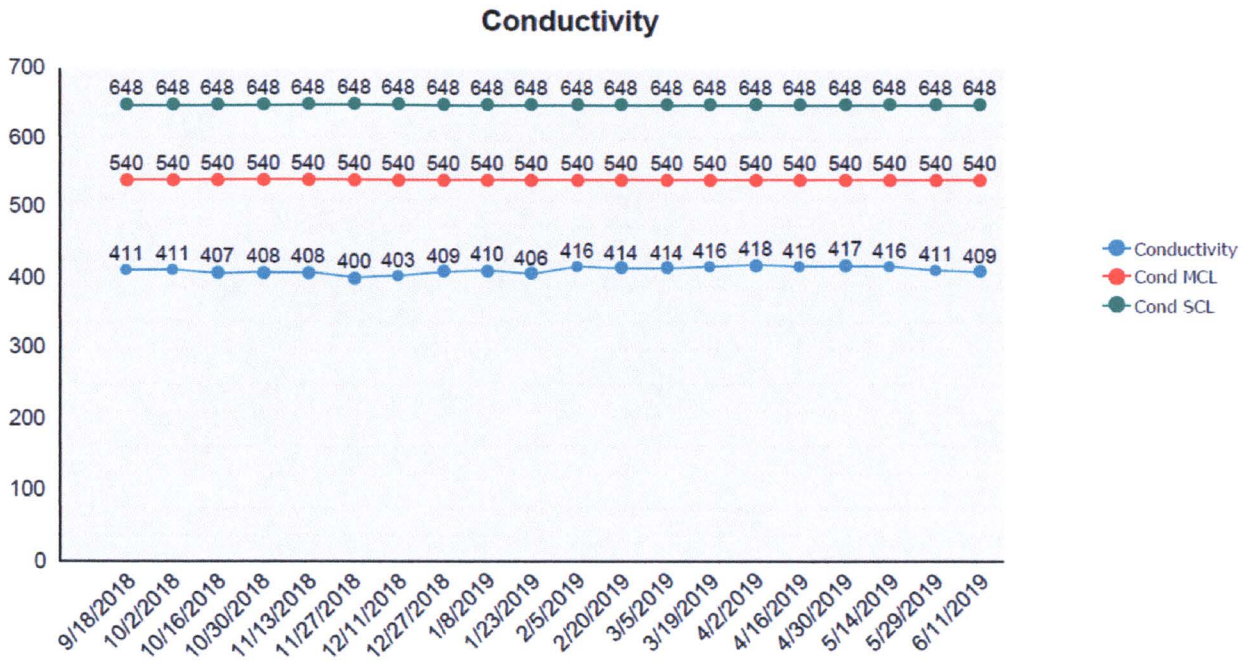
Alkalinity

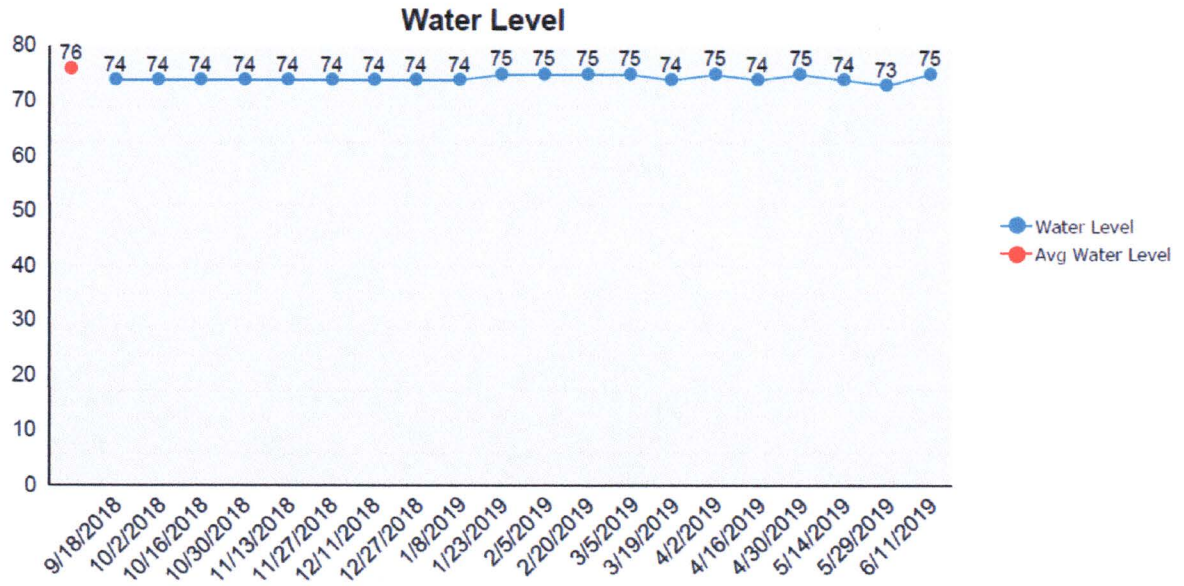


Chloride



SM9-1
6/24/2019

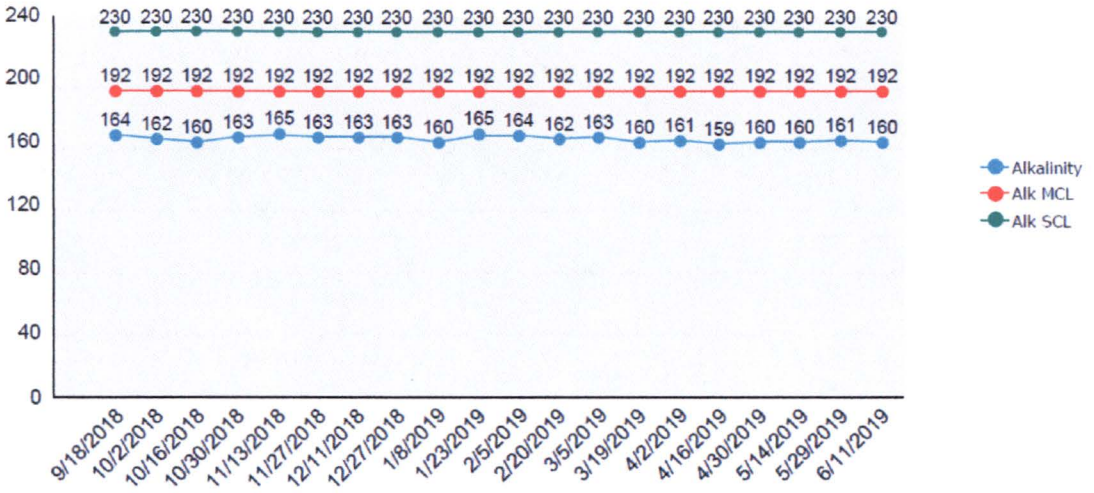




SM9-2
6/24/2019

SM09-002

Alkalinity



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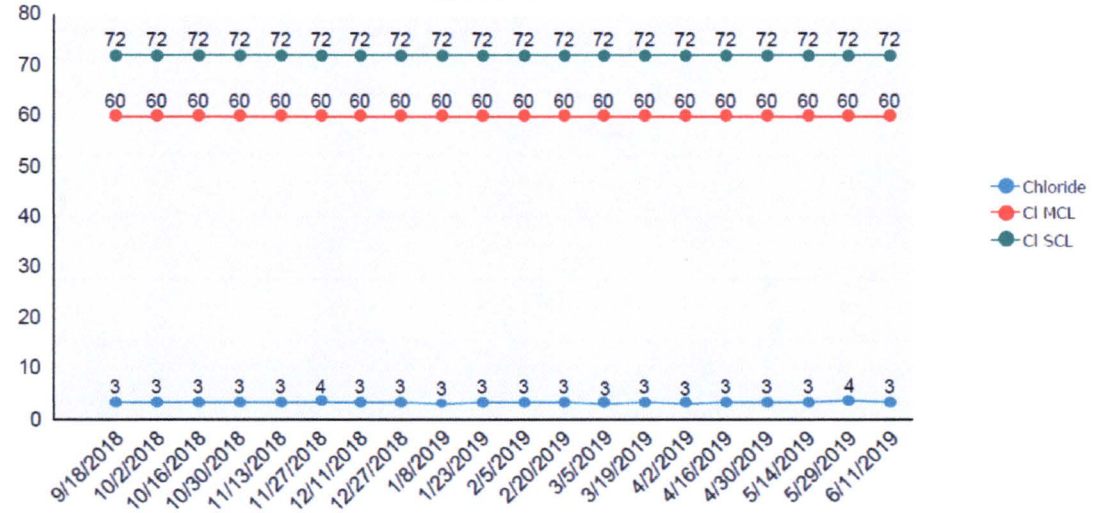
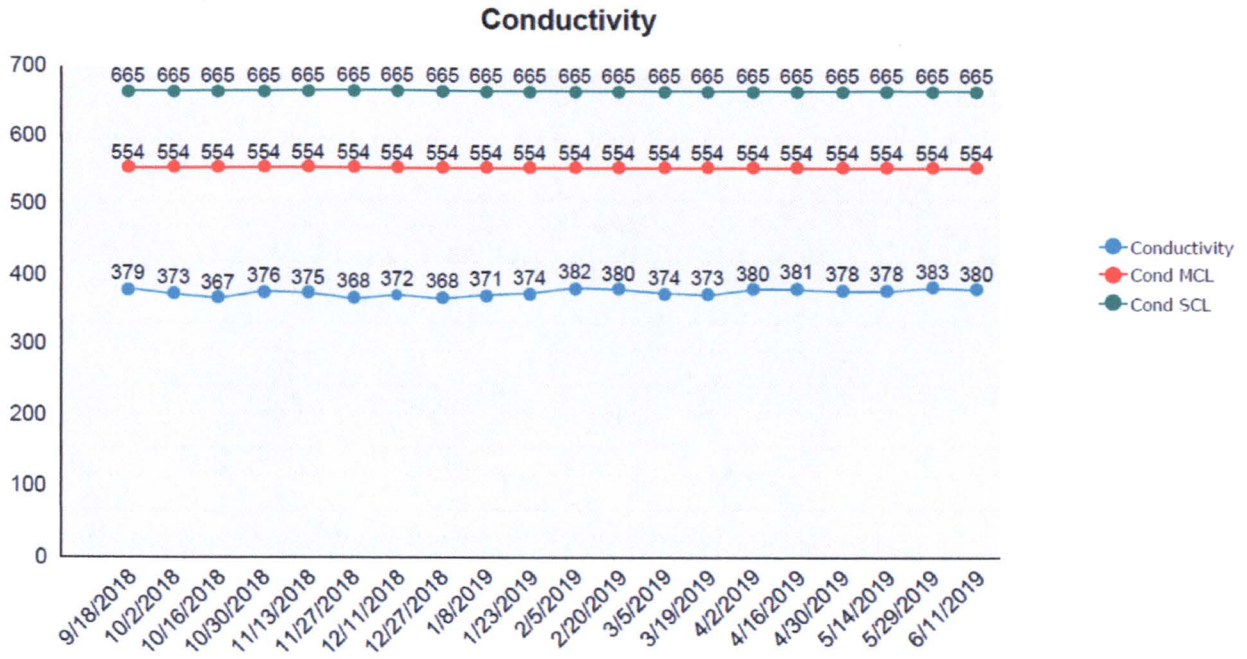
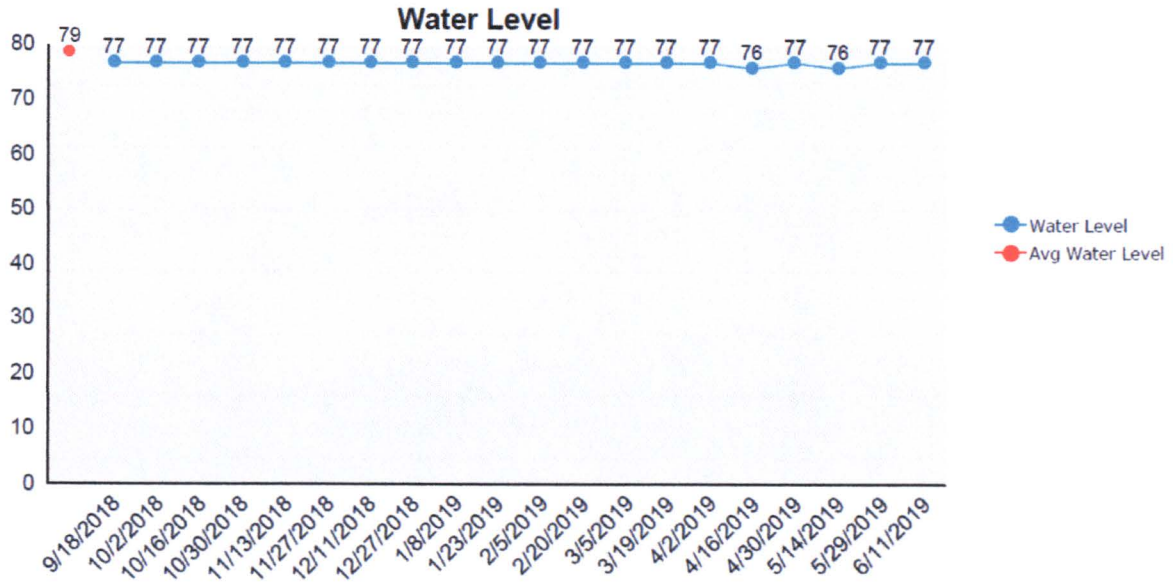


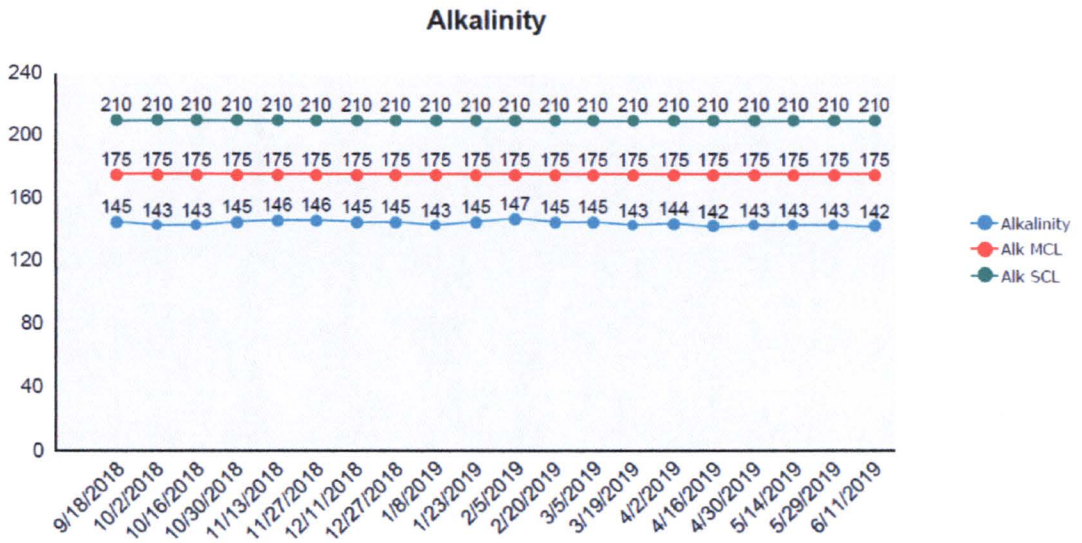
SM9-2
6/24/2019

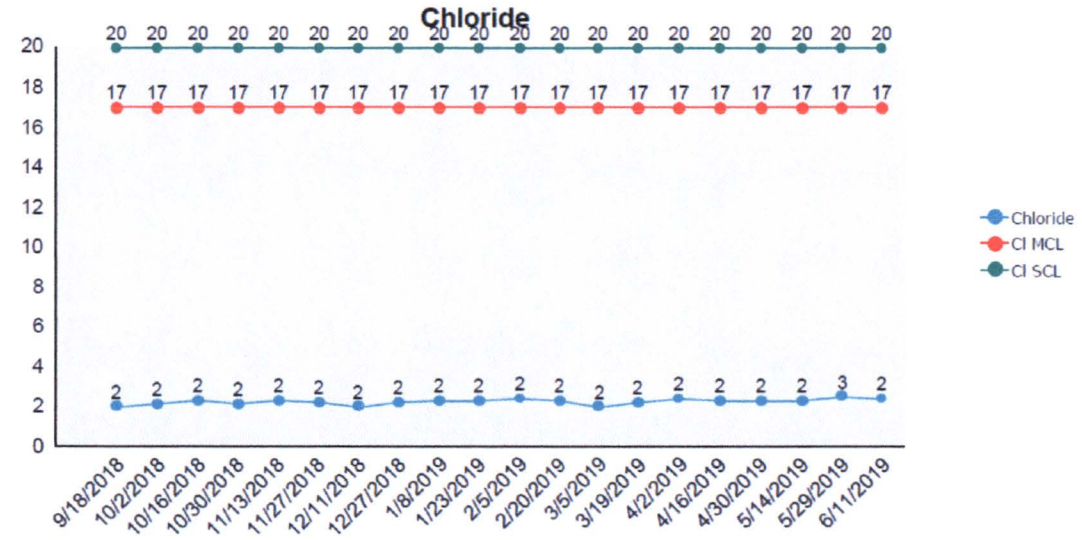




SM11-3
6/24/2019

SM11-003





SM11-3
6/24/2019