



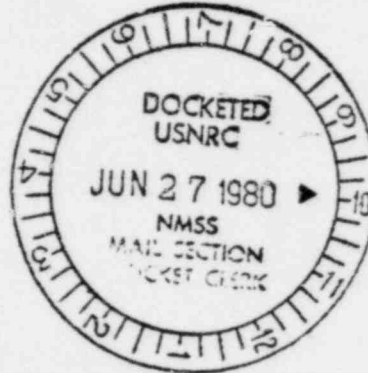
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ENERGY COMPANY

PDR

40-8697

June 19, 1980

Mr. J. E. Rothfleisch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Willste Building
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Springs, MD 20910



Dear Mr. Rothfleisch:

Re: License No. SUA-1338, Reno Creek Project;
Amendment Request of April 23, 1980

This letter summarizes changes or additions Rocky Mountain Energy Company proposes as part of its license amendment request originally submitted to your office on April 23, 1980. These modifications correct omissions in the original document or revise operating procedures based on recent experience gained in the field.

Figure RC-P-05-001 has been redrawn to depict the addition of oxidant to the leach system and is shown as Attachment A. As at the Nine Mile Lake facility, oxidant in the form of gaseous oxygen or liquid hydrogen peroxide is added to the leach solution just prior to wellfield injection. Quantities will vary with geologic and wellfield conditions as required to maintain an economic level of uranium in recovery solutions.

Although not addressed in the original application, the integrity of all injection wells will be checked prior to use. They will be tested at periodic intervals, not to exceed five years. Well casings will be hermetically sealed using a downhole packer in the terminal section of casing and a valve-controlled seal at the surface. Either water or air will be injected into the casing through the open valve under pressure. The surface valve will then be closed and pressure levels will be observed. Any significant loss of pressure over time could indicate casing failures. If this should occur, additional actions will be taken to verify or negate the test results. Problem wells which are discovered will be repaired, redrilled, utilized as a recovery well or removed from operation to assure protection of overlying aquifers.

Restoration plans described on page five of the amendment request are discussed in more detail in this paragraph. The restoration goal for Pattern II will be to return groundwater to baseline conditions. It is probable, however, that after a reasonable number of pore volume removals, that one or more parameters may still exceed background levels. In this case, where some elements cannot reasonably be returned to pre-mining conditions, water quality will be returned to a level compatible with the original water use category.

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The monitor well sampling program described on page nine should be revised. As described, wells will be sampled twice per month for water level, pH, chloride, bicarbonate, uranium, vanadium and conductivity. In addition, they will be analyzed monthly for arsenic, selenium, radium and thorium. On a quarterly basis, the samples will be analyzed for the full suite of parameters listed in guideline No. 8 as mutually abbreviated by RMEC and DEQ, Land Quality Division.

Procedures for determining excursion control limits will differ from those presented on page ten. They will be determined by taking the wellfield average for each parameter and adding two standard deviations plus ten percent. This method of determining control limits has been used in the past, and values have proven effective in detecting excursions.

These same sampling requirements should be included in page four of the table, "Requested Sampling Amendments" in the termination section of the report. Radium-226 analysis for yellowcake and yellowcake decant as discussed in the table, "Requested Sampling Summary," will be performed on a monthly, rather than on an occasional basis.

We feel that this information completes our amendment application filing process. Should you have some questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone (303) 422-8816.

Sincerely,

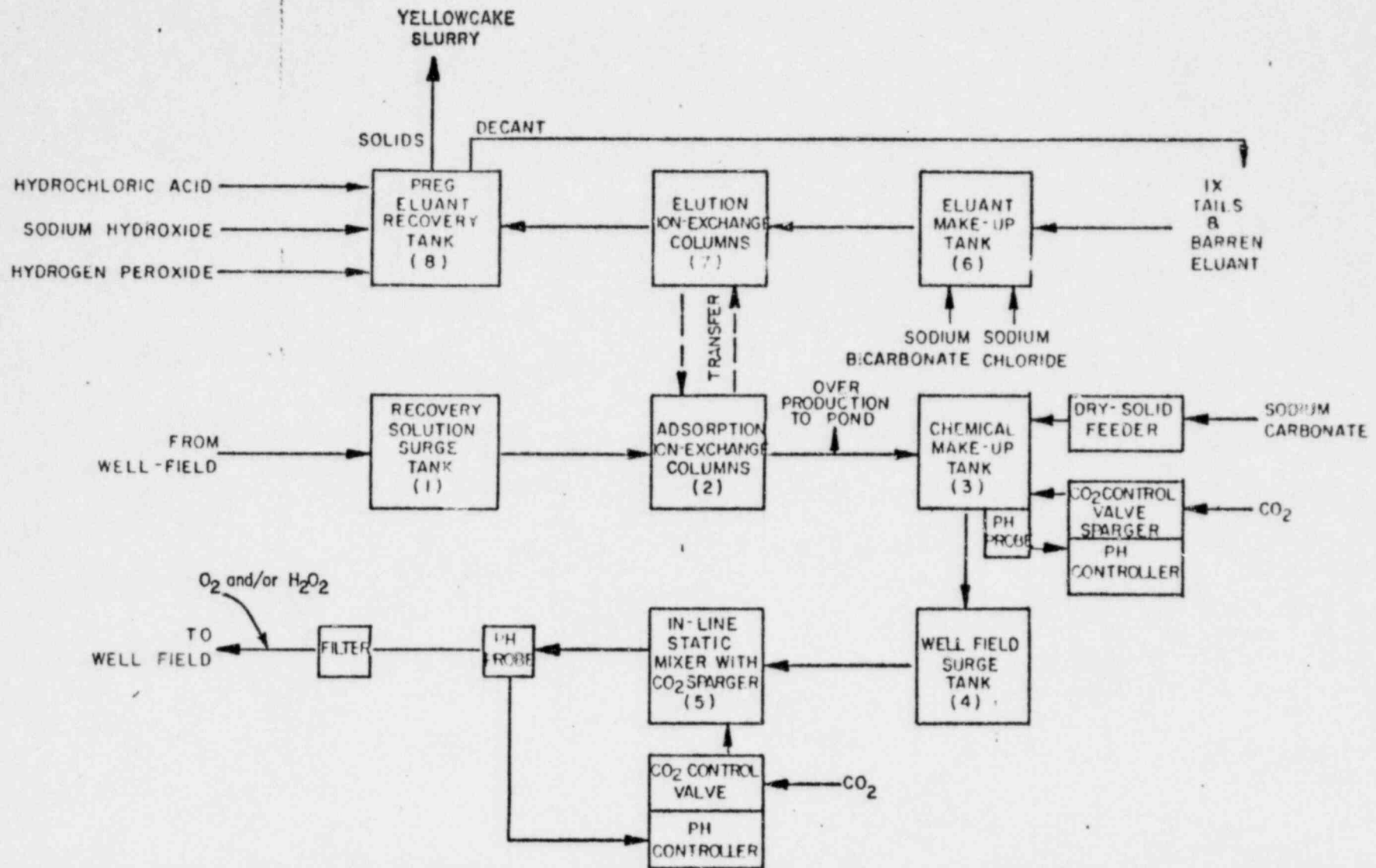
Richard Iwanicki

Richard Iwanicki
Environmental Specialist

RI/je

cc: Dennis Morrow (DEQ)
Margery Hulburt (DEQ)
Tom Mueller (DEQ)
Tony Mancini (DEQ)
Russ Hynes
Clark Eolser
Kent Loest
Peter Bosse
Mike Neumann

Attachment



CARBONATE PROCESS, ADSORPTION & ELUTION