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

MAR 3 1981

WMUR 40-8745



Mr. George J. Hartman, Mining Manager
Ogle Petroleum Corporation
150 N. Nichols Avenue
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I noted with interest the letter from your Mr. Catchpole to Mr. John B. Martin dated December 29, 1980, related to our authorization permitting Ogle to drill up to 100 wells at your Bison Basin facility. Mr. Catchpole's letter states two basic concerns: 1) the authorization was extended too late, and 2) the conditions were excessively burdensome. The purpose of this letter is to set the record straight.

The Ogle request with supporting data was dated October 8, 1980, and received by us on October 14, 1980. Our authorization was issued on November 12, 1980, within one month of receipt of your request. Considering that this non-routine request could only be granted following documentation of an intense technical, policy, and legal evaluation, I consider the one month turnaround timely.

In addition to the timeliness aspect, I find Ogle's comment regarding the license condition disconcerting. A significant portion of my staff's time during the one-month review process was spent discussing the specific conditions with Mr. Catchpole and agreement was reached concerning the condition prior to our issuing the November 12, 1980 authorization. We do this as a matter of course for major licensing actions in an effort to preclude subsequent incongruities as seem to have occurred in this case.

If indeed, the license condition identified as (c) in our authorization is excessively burdensome, my staff is available to explore alternate measures with your staff that would lead to a mutually satisfactory operating procedure that would provide adequate protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Sincerely,

Ross A. Scarano, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management

cc: G. Catchpole

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