



UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

JAN 21 1994

URFO:PJG
Docket No. 40-8903
SUA-1471, Amendment No. 17
X61186

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket No. 40-8903

FROM: Pete J. Garcia, Jr., Project Manager

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT NO. 17 TO SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE SUA-1471 FOR
HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY'S GRANTS MILL

By letter dated September 30, 1993, Homestake Mining Company submitted a request for amendment of Source Material License SUA-1471 to delete requirements concerning implementation and evaluation of programs for minimizing blowing of tailings from the tailings retention system at the Grants Mill. These requirements are specified in License Condition No. 19. The staff review of the licensee's submittal is discussed below.

License Condition No. 19 requires that measures be implemented to control the blowing of tailings, that quarterly inspections and annual technical evaluations be conducted to review the effectiveness of the control measures implemented, and that an annual soil sampling and gamma survey program be conducted to identify areas of windblown contamination requiring remediation. Homestake is requesting that these requirements be deleted because the tailings retention system is currently in active reclamation.

As observed by NRC inspectors during an inspection conducted December 7-8, 1993, recontouring activities are being performed to create the desired final contours prior to placement of an interim cover over the tailings. The licensee estimates that recontouring activities will be completed in the spring of 1994, and placement of the interim cover will then commence and be completed by the end of 1994 (see NRC Inspection Report 40-8903/93-02 dated December 23, 1993). In addition, License Condition No. 36 requires that the final radon barrier for the main impoundment be placed by December 31, 1996.

The staff agrees that implementation of control measures during the period of active reclamation would be very difficult and ineffective. The staff also notes that a final soil sampling and gamma survey program is required by License Condition No. 29. The staff therefore concludes that the requirements for the implementation and evaluation of control measures to minimize blowing of tailings are no longer necessary and may be deleted from the license.

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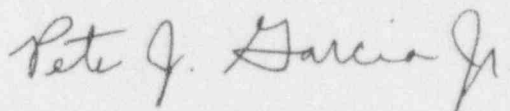
In accordance with the categorical exclusion contained in paragraph (c)(11) of 10 CFR 51.22, an environmental assessment is not required for this licensing action. That paragraph states that the categorical exclusion applies to the issuance of amendments to licenses for uranium mills provided that (1) there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, (2) there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, (3) there is no significant construction impact, and (4) there is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents.

The licensing action discussed in this memorandum meets these criteria as the proposed amendment deletes requirements which were necessary during the mill's operational phase, but are no longer necessary due to active reclamation of the tailings retention system. An environmental report is not required from the licensee since the amendment does not meet the criteria of 10 CFR 51.60 (b)(2).

Based on the above, the staff concludes that Source Material License SUA-1471 should be amended to delete requirements for the implementation and evaluation of control measures to control blowing of tailings by revising License Condition No. 19 to read as follows:

19. DELETED by Amendment No. 17.

The issuance of this amendment was discussed via telecon with Fred Craft of Homestake on January 12, 1994.



Pete J. Garcia, Jr.
Project Manager

Case Closed: X61186

JAN 21 1994

bcc:
Docket No. 40-8903
PDR/DCS
URFO r/f
DDChamberlain, RIV
DBSpitzberg, RIV
LLUR Branch, LLWM, 5E2
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PJGarcia/lv	EFHawkins	REHall		
01/14/94	01/20/94	01/21/94		