



UNITED STATES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 25325
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

JAN 21 1994

Docket No. 40-8943
SUA-1534, Amendment No. 22

Ferret Exploration Company of
Nebraska, Inc.
ATTN: Stephen P. Collings, President
216 Sixteenth Street Mall, Suite 810
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Collings:

We have reviewed your license amendment request addressing a restoration plan for ground water in Mine Unit No. 1. Our review indicates that proposed procedures, where they differ from those described in your original license application, are acceptable.

One area of concern arose regarding chemical constituents included in the proposed list of parameters to be monitored during restoration. The new proposal lacked seven of the previously approved parameters. Our review indicates that nitrite and chromium are chemical constituents which do not become elevated above baseline during the mining process at Crow Butte. Additionally, specific conductance, temperature, alkalinity, and bicarbonate either are not indicative of ground-water quality in the mine units, or provide redundant monitoring data with other parameters on the list. Therefore, removing these parameters from the restoration plan is acceptable. Conversely, sodium is deliberately elevated, in the form of sodium bicarbonate, during the mining process and must be restored to baseline values. You indicated that sodium likely was omitted as an oversight, and have committed to including it in restoration monitoring.

Our review also resulted in questioning the need to submit a restoration plan for each individual mine unit. We consider that the general restoration techniques described in your application, and revisions included in your amendment request, are likely to represent restoration procedures used for future mine unit restoration. Therefore, we are amending your license to require that restoration proceed using procedures consistent with those proposed. No additional revisions should be necessary unless it is found approved procedures are inadequate to return ground-water quality to baseline values, or unless new and significantly changed procedures are developed.

On another note, you should be aware that revisions in 10 CFR Part 20 became effective January 1, 1994. As a result, several conditions of Source Material License No. SUA-1534 now refer to obsolete section numbers within the regulation. You should review your license for the affected conditions, and propose appropriate revisions in your next license amendment request.

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Nebraska, Inc.

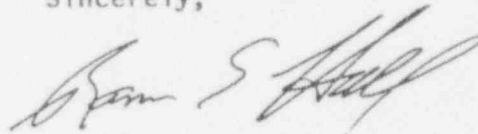
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An environmental assessment for this action is not required since this action is categorically excluded under 10 CFR 51.22 (c)(11), and an environmental report from the licensee is not required by 10 CFR 51.60 (b)(2). Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 40, we are amending License Condition No. 51 of Source Material License SUA-1534 to read as follows:

51. Ground-water restoration and post-restoration monitoring shall be conducted in each mine unit consistent with the provisions in the licensee's application and Environmental Report dated October 7, 1987, as amended by its submittal dated November 1, 1993. Notwithstanding the above references, the licensee shall include sodium in its restoration monitoring and demonstration program. The goal of restoration shall be returning ground-water quality, on a mine unit average, to baseline conditions. [Applicable Amendments: 22]

All other conditions of this license shall remain the same. The license is being reissued in its entirety to incorporate the changes. The changes to this license were discussed with you by Joel Grimm of my staff on January 13, 1993. If you have any questions or comments regarding this action, please notify Mr. Grimm at (303) 231-5806.

Sincerely,



Ramon E. Hall
Director

Enclosures:
Source Material License SUA-1534

cc:
Ralph Knode, Ferret
H. Borchert, RCPD, NE
NDEC, NE
PDR, NE