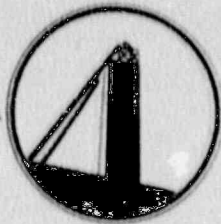


04008914090E

40-8914



Hecla Mining Company

RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

October 18, 1990



90 OCT 22 A10:18
RIV DRMA
RECEIVED

Ms. Dawn L. Jacoby, P.E.
United States Nuclear
Regulatory Commission - Region IV
Uranium Recovery Field Office
P.O. Box 25325
Denver, CO 80225

RE: October 10, 1990 Amendment to License SUA-1482, Johnny M

Dear Ms. Jacoby:

We received the above-referenced amendment to the Johnny M license late last week. As we discussed on October 17, we have some concerns with the scope and timing of this license amendment. The issuance of this amendment has placed Hecla in the situation of having a license that requires transfer of the residual materials off-site, without have any assurance that the license will be terminated once that removal process is completed. When I first discussed this matter with you and with Mr. Ward on October 9, I noted that termination of the license needed to be addressed in conjunction with approval of the relocation project, before Hecla could move forward with the work. I understood from that conversation that NRC would continue to investigate the issue of license termination. To assist in that review, Hecla would supply the information that you have requested regarding backfill of the mine.

When asked during our October 9 conversation if it would be okay for you to send proposed language to me, I did not realize that you intended to issue a license amendment at this time. Receipt of that license amendment leaves Hecla with the difficult choice of either facing a particular reclamation approach with no assurance of license termination, or challenging the issued amendment under the NRC's formal hearing process.

We recognize, and you have confirmed, that there are no dates in the license amendment requiring that reclamation activities be conducted within a certain time. Therefore, in the spirit of cooperation and desire to see the reclamation work completed, rather than request a hearing on the amendment, Hecla will trust that the NRC will diligently pursue additional amendatory language that will require termination of the license upon successful completion of the reclamation of the property as described in the reclamation plans which you have approved. For reasons stated in our May 4, 1990, letter, we believe that the license must be terminated under such conditions since there would no longer be any materials on site to be regulated.

9011140251 901018
PDR ADDCK 04008914
C PDC

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

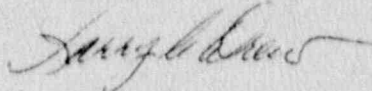
JWZ 91-0051

October 10, 1990 Amendment to License SUA-1482, Johnny M
October 18, 1990
Page 2

During our conversation of October 17, you indicated that you will be requesting NRC headquarters to provide guidance regarding license termination; such termination would be, we presume, in the form of a license amendment. Hecla will initiate reclamation work as soon as practicable upon receipt of assurances from NRC that the license would be terminated after successful execution of the approved reclamation plan.

If we can supply additional materials which will expedite concurrence that the Johnny M license will be terminated upon reclamation of the site in accordance with the current reclamation plan, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,



Larry A. Drew
Manager - Environmental Affairs