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SEP 17 1982

WMUR:KBW
Docket 40-8786
04008786120E

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8786

FROM: Kristin B. Westbrook, Project Manager
Operating Facility Section I
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: URANIUM RESOURCES INC.'S NORTH PLATTE R&D ISL
PROJECT: EXCURSIONS OF CALCIUM AND ALKALINITY IN ORE
ZONE MONITOR WELLS NPMW-1 (DECLARED JUNE 23, 1982)
AND NPMW-3 (DECLARED JUNE 25, 1982)

Source Material License SUA-1400, Condition No. 14, sets groundwater quality indicator upper control limit values (UCLs) in order to maintain groundwater quality and to recognize groundwater degradation at Uranium Resources Inc.'s (URI's) North Platte R&D ISL project. License Condition No. 14 requires that an excursion be declared if any two excursion indicators in a monitor well exceed the upper control limit (UCL) or if one excursion indicator, excluding uranium, is exceeded by 20% or more of its UCL. By letter dated June 23, 1982, URI notified us that ore zone monitor well NPMW-1 exceeded its UCLs for alkalinity and calcium. By letter dated June 25, 1982, URI notified us that ore zone monitor well NPMW-3 exceeded its UCLs for alkalinity and calcium.

In an August 17, 1982 phone conversation, M. Pelizza of URI indicated that the calcium and alkalinity values in well NPMW-1 and NPMW-3 are still fluctuating above the UCLs on some days even though they have been in restoration since June 10, 1982. He stated that there are no problems with rising trends or values over the UCLs for chloride, conductivity, vanadium, sodium or uranium in wells NPMW-1 and NPMW-3 or any of the other monitor wells.

The excursion report letters sent by URI on June 23, 1982 and June 25, 1982 did not give data values. M. Pelizza stated in an August 17, 1982 phone conversation that all the pertinent data would be contained in the quarterly report ending July 15, 1982. An initial review of the very recently received quarterly report (April 15-July 15, 1982) shows alkalinity approximately 3%-4% above its UCL for both NPMW-1 and NPMW-3, calcium data are 23% above the UCL in NPMW-3 and 47% above the UCL in

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NPMW-1. The excursion values and sampling intervals will be reviewed further in conjunction with URI's quarterly report ending July 15, 1982. M. Pelizza was informed that the data showing the values for a declared excursion, including the sampling dates, are expected to be in all excursion notification letters in the future.

URI is currently in the process of restoring the R&D wellfield using a combination groundwater sweep and reinjection of reverse osmosis treated water. This has been an effective method of cleaning up groundwater at other uranium in situ solution mines. The staff believes that at the conclusion of restoration the water quality indicators at all wellfield wells, including those monitor wells currently having excursion parameters of alkalinity and calcium exceeding UCL's, will be returned to levels consistent with wellfield baseline values or to levels consistent with state and federal standards for those parameters having standards. No further actions are needed to control these excursions because of the restoration actions being taken and our requirements for restoration to baseline and/or state and federal standards.

Kristin B. Westbrook

Kristin B. Westbrook, Project Manager
Operating Facility Section I
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

Original Signed by:
J. J. Linehan

Approved by:

John J. Linehan, Section Leader
Operating Facility Section I
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch

Case Closed: 04008786120E

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