



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE
BOX 26326
DENVER, COLORADO 80226

MAR 14 1994

Docket No. 40-8943
SUA-1534, Amendment No. 23

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 submittal dated February 7, 1994, providing baseline ground-water quality data for mine unit No. 4. Our review indicates that all required data were included. Selected monitoring locations and restoration sampling points are acceptable, and calculated upper control limits (UCLs) have been verified. Notwithstanding your proposed restoration values calculated for the State of Nebraska, restoration of mine Unit No. 4 shall be based upon baseline ground-water quality on a mine unit average, as specified in License Condition No. 51.

On a related matter, our review indicated a discrepancy between a license requirement and a commitment in your application related to the required monitoring well density in shallow aquifers. The license requirement, two wells per production unit, was likely based upon an early assumption that each unit would be approximately 10 to 15 acres in size. Your original proposal cited one shallow monitor well for each 5 acres of mine unit. In keeping with the proposal, Ferret has routinely placed shallow monitor wells at the appropriate density. We are altering License Condition No. 45 to more accurately reflect your company's proposed monitoring plan.

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, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 40, License Condition Nos. 44 and 45 are being amended to read as follows:

44. At least 2 months prior to mining in each mine unit, the licensee shall submit baseline ground-water quality data to the NRC, Uranium Recovery Field Office. The data shall be established in each mine unit at the following minimal density:
 - A. one production or injection well per acre,

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- B. one upper aquifer monitor well per five acres, and
- C. all perimeter monitor wells.

The data shall consist, at a minimum, of the sample analyses indicated in Appendix 2.9(a) of the October 7, 1987, license application. The baseline data shall support a request for a license amendment establishing upper control limits (UCLs) and restoration standards for each mine unit.

Current UCLs, restoration standards and monitor well locations are designated in:

<u>Submittal Date</u>	<u>Mine Unit No.</u>
December 31, 1990	1
January 23, 1992	2
November 19, 1992	3
February 7, 1994	4

[Applicable Amendments: 13, 19, 23]

45. All designated monitor wells shall be sampled and tested on a biweekly basis. If two UCLs are exceeded in a well or if a single UCL value is exceeded by 20 percent, the licensee shall take a confirming water sample within 48 hours and analyze it for the excursion indicators. If the second sample does not indicate exceedance, a third sample shall be taken within 48 hours. If neither the second or third indicate exceedance, the first sample shall be considered in error.

If the second or third sample indicates an exceedance, the well in question shall be placed on excursion status, and the NRC shall be notified by telephone within 24 hours and within 7 days in writing from the time the confirmation sample was taken. Upon confirmation of an excursion, the licensee shall implement a corrective action and increase the sampling frequency for the excursion indicators to once every 7 days. An excursion is considered concluded when the concentrations of excursion indicators are below the concentration levels defining an excursion for three consecutive 1-week samples.

[Applicable Amendments: 10, 13, 19, 23]

All other license conditions shall remain the same. The license is being reissued to incorporate the changes. The changes to this license were

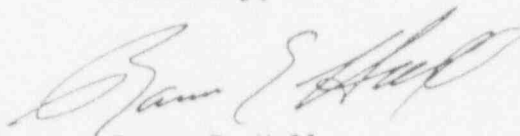
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discussed with you by Joel Grimm of my staff on March 7, 1994. If you have any questions or comments regarding this action, please notify Mr. Grimm at (303) 231-5806.

Sincerely,



Ramon E. Hall
Director

Enclosure:
As Stated

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