

October 20, 1994

Crow Butte Resources, Inc.
ATTN: Stephen P. Collings
President
216 Sixteenth Street Mall, Suite 810
Denver, Colorado 80202

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT 25 TO SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE SUA-1534, CROW BUTTE
RESOURCES, INC. IN SITU MINE, DAWES COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Dear Mr. Collings:

By letter dated October 4, 1994, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued Amendment 24 to Source Material License SUA-1534. One aspect of this amendment was NRC's granting the authorization for Crow Butte Resources, Inc. to use an underground injection well to dispose of process water produced during extraction operation and restoration through the addition of License Condition 55. In granting this authorization, however, the staff did not make the necessary corresponding change to License Condition 42, placing the two license conditions in conflict. License Condition 42 specifies the authorized discharge points for liquid effluent from the process buildings and other process waste streams.

Therefore, Source Material License SUA-1534 is hereby amended by revising License Condition 42. All other conditions of this license shall remain the same. Enclosure 1 is a copy of the amended license. The Technical Evaluation Report documenting the staff's basis for this amendment is provided in Enclosure 2.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
High-Level Waste and Uranium
Recovery Projects Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8943
SUA-1534, Amendment 25
Case Closed: X61150
L51020

Enclosure: As stated (2)

Distribution: PUBLIC
MFederline DGillen HLR r/f JHolonich MBell JAustin
MRogers BJones NEisenberg SWastler CMcKenney CCain, RIV
MMessier

OFC	HLUR	E	HLUR	E	HLUR	E				
NAME	SWastler		DGillen		JHolonich					
DATE	10/19/94	M	10/24/94	M	10/31/94	M				

S:\HLUR\SLW\amend-25.ltr OFFICIAL RECORD COPY
PDR : YES NO Category: Proprietary or CF Only
ACNW: YES NO Delete file after distribution Yes No
IG: YES NO

9411150302 941020
PDR ADOCK 04008943
C PDR

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

MLT

TECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT

DOCKET NO. 40-8943

LICENSE NO. SUA-1534

LICENSEE: Crow Butte Resources, Inc.

FACILITY: Crow Butte In Situ Leach Mine

PROJECT MANAGER: Sandra L. Wastler

TECHNICAL REVIEWER(S): S. Wastler

ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

By letter dated October 4, 1994, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued Amendment 24 to Source Material License SUA-1534. One aspect of this amendment was NRC's granting the authorization for Crow Butte Resources, Inc. to use an underground injection well to dispose of process water produced during extraction operation and restoration through the addition of License Condition 55. In granting this authorization, however, the staff did not make the necessary corresponding change to License Condition 42, placing the two license conditions in conflict. License Condition 42 specifies the authorized discharge points for liquid effluent from the process buildings and other process waste streams. Approval of the use of underground injection is provided in the Technical Evaluation Report attached to Amendment 24 dated October 4, 1994.

DESCRIPTION OF LICENSEE'S AMENDMENT REQUEST:

This is an administrative amendment taken by the NRC and is directly related to Crow Butte's August 24, 1993 request for authorization to use an underground injection well to dispose of process water produced during extraction operation and restoration.

TECHNICAL EVALUATION:

Approval of the use of underground injection was provided in the Technical Evaluation Report attached to Amendment 24 dated October 4, 1994. The action being taken by this amendment is administrative and corrects License Condition 42 to include the underground injection option.

RECOMMENDED LICENSE CHANGE:

Source Material License SUA-1534 shall be amended by the addition of License Condition No. 42 to read as follows:

42. All liquid effluent from process buildings and other process waste streams, with the exception of sanitary wastes, shall be returned to the process circuit, discharged to the solution evaporation ponds; land-

disposed in accordance with the July 27, 1988, wastewater irrigation proposal, submitted August 3, 1988; or deep well injected in accordance with the August 19, 1993 report entitled "Hydrogeologic Review and Engineering Design for the Proposed Injection Well, Crow Butte Project, Dawes County, Nebraska," submitted August 24, 1993.
[Applicable Amendments: 1, 25]

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION:

This action is considered an administrative change which, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.22 (c)(11), does not result in (i) significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluent that may be released offsite, (ii) significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, (iii) significant construction impact, or (iv) significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents, due to the implementation of this amendment. Therefore the action can be categorically excluded and no further environmental review is required.