

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

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August 28, 1975

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Mr. Richard E. Cunningham
Acting Director
Division of Materials and Fuel Cycle
Facility Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

MF-9-3(42)
Due 9/19/75

Re: Source Material License for Susquehanna
Western Uranium Mill, Riverton, Wyoming;
No. SUA-652

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

In his letter of February 20, 1975, then Director Howard Larson indicated that no uranium mill license will be terminated until the Commission has completed an environmental assessment, which will include a determination that there are adequate provisions to control mill tailings.

We write concerning the license for the Susquehanna Western mill in Riverton, Wyoming, a copy of which you furnished to us on March 26, 1975. We understand that, although the mill ceased operation several years ago, the license has not been terminated. We also have been informed that the licensee has applied for termination of the license, and that the Commission staff has entered into negotiations with the licensee regarding provisions for long-term control of the mill tailings. We would appreciate learning more about this situation; specifically, by securing answers to the following questions and being furnished with the following materials.

1. Please provide us with a copy of the licensee's application for termination, together with any supporting materials or documents. Also please furnish us with any written evaluations or survey of the current condition and stability of the mill tailings piles at Susquehanna Western's mill, conducted by the NRC or its predecessor agency. If necessary, consider this a request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, as amended.
2. When was the application for termination made, and when is a decision expected on it?
3. Are we correct in assuming that, although the license says on its face that the expiration date is October 31, 1965, it is in fact still in force?

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4. What is the authority of the Commission to keep licenses in force past their termination date?

5. What conditions will the NRC impose on the termination of the license?

6. What does the Commission consider is its authority to impose such conditions on license termination?

7. What role has the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) played in the termination proceedings, especially in formulating conditions for termination?

8. Is the NRC's position with respect to Susquehanna Western's license affected at all by the fact that Wyoming is neither an agreement state nor has any radiation control laws or regulations?

9. Does Susquehanna Western still own the mill site and the land covered by the tailings pile?

10. What are the current restrictions, if any, on Susquehanna Western's power to alienate this property?

11. Has Susquehanna Western posted a bond to cover cost of interim stabilization or long-term disposal of the tailings pile near Riverton; if so, in what amount?

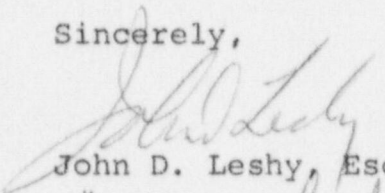
12. Will an environmental impact statement be prepared on the decision whether or not to terminate the license?

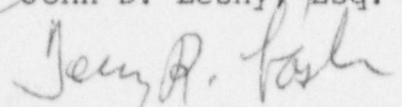
13. How often has the AEC/NRC inspected the Susquehanna Western site since the mill closed in 1963?

14. Is there an established schedule or frequency for such inspections; if so, what is it?

We appreciate your assistance in this inquiry. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


John D. Leshy, Esq.


Terry R. Lash, Ph.D.

JDL/TRL/ak

WTC suspense 9-3-75

Branch Symbol _____

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FOIA

Date received 9/3/75 EDO # _____
Due date 9/19/75 NMSS # _____
Completion Date _____ Other # MF-9-3(42) EDO # 9167

Description Ltr fm NRDC to REC dtd 8/28/75 re source material
license for Susquehanna Western Uranium Mill, Riverton, Wyoming;
No. SUA-652

Assigned to () DAN / (X) LER/Crow 9/3/75
Date Date
() HL/

Date Record of Action (include all retvoings & delays for
whatever reason)

<u>9-4-75</u>	<u>Rec'd FCL #1</u>
<u>9-4-75</u>	<u>Sent orig ltr to G. Carter to</u>
	<u>be logged in as EDO Corres.</u>
<u>9-9-75</u>	<u>Rec'd FCL #1</u>
<u>9/11/75</u>	<u>Complete FCL #1</u>
<u>9/12/75</u>	<u>" EPB</u>
<u>9/12/75</u>	<u>" ADM</u>
<u>9/15/75</u>	<u>Sent to EID</u>
<u>9/18/75</u>	<u>Conferred with connections EID 9/18</u>
<u>9/18/75</u>	<u>Retyped</u>
<u>9-19</u>	<u>Signed</u>

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

John D. Lashy
Larry B. Lash

CONTROL NUMBER

9167

FILE LOCATION

DATE OF DOCUMENT

8/28/75

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE

9/19/75

TO

Richard E. Cunningham

ACTION PROCESSING DATES

Acknowledged _____

Interim Reply _____

Final

13/ Review for

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

Chairman _____

Director of Regulation _____

X

Chapman

DESCRIPTION

Ltr

☒ Original☐ Copy☐ OtherRequests copies of documents concerning application of
Susquehanna Western Uranium Mill for termination of license
and response to related questions

REMARKS

Please confer with HLD and
Mr. Felton by 9/10/75If it is anticipated request may
be denied, proposed reply should
be submitted to Mr. Donoghue by
9/16/75

REFERRED TO

DATE

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE
RECOMMENDED? _____

Chapman 1/action

9/5/75

Cys:

Gossick
Birke
Donoghue
Felton
J. Maynard
Lieberman
Martin, CCFREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT REQUESTDIRECTOR OF REGULATION
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROLForm HQ-32 (1-73)
USAEC