



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 5, 2021

Mr. Walter Nelson, Coordinator
Safety, Health, Environment
and Quality
Cameco Resources
Post Office Box 169
Crawford, NE 69339-0169

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS
FOR TRIBAL SITES REGARDING THE CROW BUTTE IN SITU URANIUM
RECOVERY LICENSE RENEWAL PROCEEDING (DOCKET NUMBER 40-
8943)

Dear Mr. Nelson:

In support of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's efforts to address the deficiencies in the staff's cultural resources review identified by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in the Crow Butte Resources license renewal proceeding, the NRC staff met with the Oglala Sioux Tribe on February 8, 2021. During this meeting the NRC staff and the Tribal representatives discussed various aspects of the staff's efforts to identify sites of historic, cultural, and religious significance that could be affected by the continued operation of the Crow Butte in situ uranium recovery (ISR) facility under the renewed license. A summary of the meeting can be found at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21057A131.

As the licensee for the Crow Butte ISR facility, Crow Butte Resources (CBR) also has a role in facilitating the NRC staff's efforts. Accordingly, the NRC staff is seeking CBR's input on the subjects identified below.

Project Schedule

To facilitate planning and timely execution of the project, the NRC staff is enclosing a proposed project schedule, which contains milestones and target completion dates. After the site survey methodology is developed, specific dates for completion of fieldwork will be finalized. The NRC staff, however, would like to understand if CBR can generally support the enclosed project schedule. If there are specific dates in the proposed timeframes that should be avoided, please identify these so alternatives can be identified.

Site Visits and Field Work

- Initial Site Visit

The NRC staff would like to confirm that CBR can accommodate an initial site visit by the Oglala Sioux Tribe during the April–May 2021 timeframe. The purpose of an initial site visit would be to gain familiarity with the site and landscape. The NRC staff anticipates such a visit would last approximately 2-4 hours and would entail driving to various locations to

provide an overview of the site and possibly stopping at tribal sites identified during the Bozell & Pepperl Survey conducted in the 1980s. The site visit would be conducted following state and the site's requirements and protocols for the Covid-19 public health emergency such as wearing masks, social distancing, and limiting the number of participants.

- Site Survey

The NRC staff has begun the process of identifying potential survey elements with input from the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Until a methodology is developed, specific dates and the length of time to complete the survey are unknown. The enclosed project schedule anticipates that onsite field work would start in August 2021 and be completed by the end of October 2021. The field survey would occur within the license area (2,875 acres) and following the licensee's safety and security measures.

- Funding

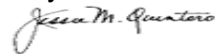
The NRC staff would like to understand what types and level of financial support CBR would be willing to provide to support the field work necessary to complete the cultural resources review.

The NRC staff requests a written response from CBR on its ability to support the proposed project schedule, including an initial site visit during April–May 2021 timeframe and a site survey during the August–October 2021 timeframe, and input on financial compensation, by April 2, 2021.

In accordance with section 2.390 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen or Ms. Diana Diaz-Toro of my staff. Ms. Trefethen can be reached at (301) 415-0867 or via e-mail at Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov. Ms. Diaz-Toro can be reached at (301) 415-0930 or via e-mail at Diana.Diaz-Toro@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Quintero, Jessie
on 03/05/21

Jessie M. Quintero, Chief
Environmental Review Materials Branch
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8973
License No. SUA-1534

Enclosure:
Proposed Project Schedule

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DATED: March 5, 2021

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***via email**

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