



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

October 25, 2021

Melvin Baker, Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
of the Southern Ute Reservation  
P.O. Box 737  
Ignacio, CO 81137

SUBJECT: DURITA – EVALUATION OF THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMPLETION REVIEW REPORT

Dear Chairman Baker,

We are sending you this letter because we identified your Tribe as being potentially interested in the Durita site, a conventional uranium heap leach facility located in Montrose County, Colorado. In a letter to your Tribe dated April 20, 2021,<sup>1</sup> the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff explained the process and review activities for the termination of the license by the State of Colorado and transfer of the site to the Department of Energy (DOE) for long-term care and maintenance. The letter also stated that the NRC would inform you of the results of its evaluation of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Completion Review Report (CRR).

The purpose of this letter is to inform your Tribe that the NRC staff has completed its review of the CRR for Colorado Radioactive Material License No. CO-317-02 issued to Hecla Mining Company, which covers the Durita site. As discussed in detail in the NRC's letter to the CDPHE dated April 19, 2021,<sup>2</sup> the NRC staff found that the license termination activities at the Durita site have met all applicable standards and requirements for the protection of the public health, safety, and environment. The conclusion is based on the NRC's evaluation of the CRR, review of the CDPHE's uranium recovery program, and a supplemental technical review of the groundwater system. Upon acceptance of the DOE's Long-Term Surveillance Plan, conveyance of needed property rights, and the setting and payment of the Long-Term Care fee, the NRC will concur on the CRR and Colorado may proceed to terminate the license for the Durita site.

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<sup>1</sup> Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21106A083.

<sup>2</sup> ADAMS Accession No. ML17243A170.

If you have questions or comments concerning this letter, please contact Ms. Nadiyah Morgan at 404-997-4576, or by email at [Nadiyah.Morgan@nrc.gov](mailto:Nadiyah.Morgan@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Arribas-Colon, Maria  
on 10/25/21

Maria Arribas-Colon, Chief  
Materials Safety and Tribal Liaison Branch  
Division of Materials Safety, Security, State  
and Tribal Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

TRIBAL NOTIFICATION LETTERS RE: DURITA CRR EVALUATION DATE October 25, 2021

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML21277A099; Ltr ML21277A107**

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