

December 1, 2021

Michael M. Gibson, Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Gary S. Arnold
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

G. Paul Bollwerk, III
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

In the Matter of
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.
(License Renewal for the In Situ Leach Facility, Crawford, Nebraska)
Docket No. 40-8943; ASLBP No. 08-867-02-OLA-BD01

Dear Administrative Judges,

In its Partial Initial Decision (LBP-16-7) issued May 26, 2016, the Board directed the NRC Staff to submit monthly status reports updating the Board and parties as to the status of the Staff's curative actions in response to the Board's resolution of Contention 1.

The onsite field work for the cultural resources survey of the Crow Butte Resources (CBR) license area began on the afternoon of November 1, 2021.¹ The NRC Staff's contractor was onsite for the entire survey period (November 1 through November 19), and an NRC Staff project manager was onsite during the first and third weeks. At the invitation of the Quality Services, Inc. (QSI) survey crew, the Staff's contractor and Staff project manager (when present) walked the site with the crew and assisted in survey activities. A group of elders from the Oglala Sioux Tribe visited the site on November 10 while the field work was ongoing. In addition, QSI arranged with CBR for an additional visit by elders which took place on November 23.

On November 18, QSI requested eight additional days of field work to complete recording of newly-identified sites and artifacts, to re-evaluate five of the previously-identified sites from prior surveys, and to complete surveying in two specific areas. On November 22, the Staff held a meeting with representatives of QSI, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and CBR to discuss this request. CBR agreed to eight additional days of field work to be conducted during the week of November 29 – December 3 and continuing during the week of December 6.

¹ The first day of actual surveying was November 2. Because no survey work was performed on November 1, CBR provided access to the site on Sunday, November 14, as an additional workday for the survey crew.

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The additional field work began on November 29 as planned. The NRC Staff's contractor and project managers are not on site for the additional survey days.

The Staff will submit its next monthly status report by January 3, 2022, in accordance with the Board's mandate.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed (electronically) by

Marcia J. Simon

Counsel for the NRC Staff

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Dated December 1, 2021.

cc: EIE Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of)	
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CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.)	Docket No. 40-8943
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(License Renewal for the In Situ Leach)	ASLBP No. 08-867-02-OLA-BD01
Facility, Crawford, Nebraska))	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "NRC STAFF'S LETTER TO THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD" in the above captioned proceeding have been served this 1st day of December, 2021, via the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange ("EIE"), which to the best of my knowledge resulted in transmittal of the foregoing to those on the EIE Service List for the above captioned proceeding.

Signed (electronically) by
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