

40-8502



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

November 29, 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Hardgrove
COGEMA Mining, Incorporated
935 Pendell Boulevard
P.O. Box 730
Mills, WY 82644

SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING PLAN SUBMITTAL, IRIGARAY AND CHRISTENSEN
RANCH *IN SITU* LEACH URANIUM PROJECTS, LICENSE SUA-1341:
AMENDMENT 3

Dear Mr. Hardgrove:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its review of your request for an amendment to address the submittal of a decommissioning plan to the NRC by April 30, 2000, for the COGEMA Mining, Inc. (COGEMA) Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* Leach (ISL) Uranium Projects. Your request to amend License Condition 12.5 was submitted by letter dated October 18, 1999. We agree with your submittal date of a decommissioning plan and have incorporated the change as an amendment to the enclosed revised license (Enclosure 1).

COGEMA plans to cease production in all of its well fields sometime during the third or fourth calendar quarters of 2000. All well fields will be in the restoration phase after production ceases. COGEMA's proposal to submit a decommissioning plan to NRC by April 30, 2000, because of the extended need for the facilities in support of the ground water restoration will result in no decommissioning of these facilities in the near term. Upon completion of the mining of module 6-6 in Mine Unit 6, it is anticipated that it will require a number of years to conclude the ground water restoration efforts in all impacted well fields. Therefore, the existing physical plants at Irigaray/Christensen Ranch will be required for an extended period for restoration purposes.

We conclude that the submittal date of April 30, 2000, will provide sufficient time for NRC review of the plan prior to any decommissioning activities.

We hereby amend Condition 12.5 of Materials License SUA-1341 to reflect the revised submittal date, pursuant to Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 40. All other conditions of the license shall remain the same. The license is being reissued to incorporate the above modification, as provided in the enclosure.

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The submission of an environment report under 10 CFR 51.60 is not required for this amendment request. An environmental assessment is not required for this action because this action is categorically excluded under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11).

If you have any questions concerning this amendment, please contact the new NRC project manager for the Irigaray and Christensen Ranch facilities, Melanie Wong, at (301) 415-6262 or e-mail at mcw@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

[D. Gillen for]

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No: 40-8502
License No.: SUA-1341

Enclosure: Revised License SUA-1341,
Amendment 3

cc: B. Guirgevich, WDEQ - District III
G. Mooney, WDEQ - District III
R. Poyser, COGEMA

Case Closed: L51901

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T. Hardgrove

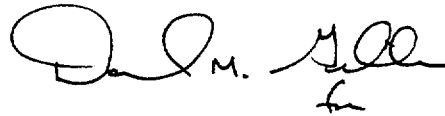
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. H. Essig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No: 40-8502
License No.: SUA-1341

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