

DOCKET: 70-0925

LICENSEE: Kerr-McGee Cimarron Corporation
Crescent, OK

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT: AMENDMENT 18 OF CIMARRON
CORPORATION'S LICENSE (SNM-928) TO REMOVE PHASE III SUBAREA K
FROM THE LICENSE AND RELEASE IT FOR UNRESTRICTED USE

BACKGROUND

In its February 15, 2000, submittal of the Final Status Survey Report (FSSR) for Subarea K, Kerr-McGee Cimarron Corporation (Cimarron) requested that its license be amended to remove Subarea K from its license and release it for unrestricted use. Cimarron has no plans for conducting any future activities involving radioactive material in this subarea.

NRC staff reviewed the aforementioned FSSR and additional information provided by the licensee in a submittal dated February 20, 2001, and has no further questions. In addition, NRC staff conducted a confirmatory survey of Subarea K and determined that it meets the Option 1 criteria for unrestricted release in the NRC Branch Technical Position (BTP), "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium and Uranium Wastes from Past Operations," (46 FR 52061, October 23, 1981). The findings of this confirmatory survey were documented in NRC Inspection Report 70-925/01-01, dated November 26, 2001.

DISCUSSION

Subarea K is comprised of approximately 4.5 acres of land including the former uranium processing buildings (Uranium Processing Building, Liquid Storage Building, and Solvent Extraction Building) and equipment that has been decontaminated, dismantled, released and/or disposed as well as the open land areas surrounding the former processing buildings. Decontamination and decommissioning of the uranium processing equipment and the buildings began in 1977. NRC inspections have confirmed that these activities were conducted in compliance with NRC's 1987 Guidance for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment.

On July 30 through August 2, 2001, and September 5 and 6, 2001, NRC conducted an inspection and performed confirmatory surveys of Subarea K. The findings of these confirmatory surveys were documented in NRC Inspection Report 70-925/01-01. Confirmatory measurements included exposure rate measurements, direct measurements of total alpha and beta contamination, and soil samples. All measurements were below the release criteria of License Condition 27 of Cimarron's license (SNM-928) and the BTP Option 1 limit. No health or safety hazards were identified.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Release of Subarea K is consistent with the Cimarron Decommissioning Plan which was approved by License Amendment 15, dated August 20, 1999. The environmental impacts of decommissioning and releasing Subarea K are included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) issued to support the NRC staff's approval of Cimarron's decommissioning plan (License Amendment 15, dated August 20, 1999). Associated with that EA were a Finding of No Significant Impact and a notice of opportunity to request a hearing, published in the Federal

Register on August 12, 1999 (64 FR 44059). As the environmental impacts associated with releasing subareas of the site were bounded by the evaluations in the 1999 EA, further environmental review is not needed for this action.

CONCLUSION

The NRC staff has determined that removing Subarea K from Cimarron's license is in accordance with Cimarron's approved Decommissioning Plan and meets regulatory requirements. Therefore, the staff concludes that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed action will not adversely impact upon the health and safety of the public or the environment.

Approval of the proposal action is recommended.

NRC Region IV has no objection to this action.

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