



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

July 31, 2007

TO: Docket File 040-09071

THROUGH: D. Blair Spitzberg, Chief *D. Blair Spitzberg*
Fuel Cycle & Decommissioning Branch

FROM: Robert Evans, CHP, PE, Senior Health Physicist *R. Evans*
Fuel Cycle & Decommissioning Branch 7/30/07

SUBJECT: ROCA HONDA PROJECT SITE VISIT

On July 26, 2007, NRC staff conducted a site visit of the Roca Honda Project, a uranium mining claim being developed by Strathmore Minerals Corporation of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Attached to this Memorandum is a trip report for this site visit. No regulatory issues or safety concerns were identified during the site visit.

Docket No.: 040-09071
License No.: None

Enclosure: NRC Trip Report

NRC TRIP REPORT

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV**

Docket No.: 040-09071

License No.: None

Report No.: None

Licensee: Strathmore Minerals Corporation

Facility: Roca Honda Project

Location: McKinley County, New Mexico

Date: July 26, 2007

Inspector: Robert Evans, PE, CHP, Senior Health Physicist
Fuel Cycle & Decommissioning Branch

Accompanied by: Jason M. Razo, Health Physicist
Nuclear Materials Inspection Branch

Douglas T. Mandeville, Geotechnical Engineer
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

Approved by: D. Blair Spitzberg, Ph.D., Chief
Fuel Cycle & Decommissioning Branch

ENCLOSURE

NRC Trip Report

Background

By letter dated April 27, 2007, Strathmore Minerals Corporation submitted a Notice of Intent to file for a source material license. The company plans to construct an in-situ recovery facility and/or a conventional mill at the Roca Honda Project site in McKinley County, New Mexico, to recover uranium from subsurface deposits. The target date for the license application submittal is 2009.

Strathmore Minerals controls the mineral rights in three sections of McKinley County including Sections 9, 10, and 16. Sections 9 and 10 are controlled by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), while Section 16 is controlled by the State of New Mexico.

During the Fall 2006, the company began performing environmental assessment studies including the cultural and archaeological resource assessments and the flora and fauna studies.

Site Status

At the time of the site visit, the major activity in progress was the drilling of wells in Section 16. Strathmore received a drilling permit from the State of New Mexico during May 2007 for Section 16. The State authorized the company to drill four holes approximately 2000 feet deep. Initial drilling and coring began in June 2007. The company plans to install these four wells, in part, to commence with background water quality testing and to verify the ore body. One rig was present on the site, and the rig was supported by two geologists and two-five drillers. The company was also preparing drilling permit requests for the BLM-controlled properties in Sections 9 and 10.

In the near future, Strathmore plans to commence with background radiological and air quality data collection. Soil sampling was conducted in the area where drilling was in progress, but more soil samples will be collected at a later date.

The company was considering purchasing property for the main office and a maintenance yard facility. In addition, the company was considering alternative locations for the mill site. The company was also considering its plans for the design of the mill which will most likely consist of the acid-leach process.

During the site tour, the NRC staff briefly visited the Mt. Taylor mine site, a property controlled by Rio Grande Resources. Rio Grande Resources has informally discussed its plans for a conventional mill with the NRC, but the company has not formally submitted a Notice of Intent letter to the NRC. There were six workers at this mine site, and the company was preparing to dewater the mine.

Strathmore Minerals Corporation Officials Contacted

Juan Velasquez, Vice President, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs

ENCLOSURE

bcc w/Enclosure:

LDWert

DBSpitzberg

JEWWhitten

LMGersey

RJEvans

JMRazo

JFKatanic

DTMandeville, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD

RCLinton, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD

BVonTill, FSME/DWMEP/DURLD

RITS Coordinator

FCDB

RIV Nuclear Materials File - 5th Floor

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SUNSI Review Completed: RJE ADAMS: ☒ Yes ☐ No Initials: RJE
☒ Publicly Available ☐ Non-Publicly Available ☐ Sensitive ☒ Non-Sensitive

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NAME	RJEvans	DBSpitzberg <i>DBS</i>
	<i>RJEvans</i>	
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