

February 8, 2012

Mr. Ken Garoutte
Manager, Safety, Health,
Environment and Quality
Cameco Resources
P.O. Box 1210
Glenrock, WY 82637

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ALTERNATE DECOMMISSIONING SCHEDULE
SMITH RANCH HIGHLAND URANIUM PROJECT *IN SITU* RECOVERY FACILITY,
POWER RESOURCES INC., GLENROCK, WYOMING, LICENSE SUA-1548

Dear Mr. Garoutte:

By letter dated September 14, 2011, Power Resources, Inc., (PRI), doing business as Cameco Resources, submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, a request for approval of an alternate decommissioning schedule for the Smith Ranch Highland Uranium Project. The September 14 included a restoration schedule dated July 2008 that has been approved by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ). Cameco submitted the alternate decommissioning schedule at the request of the NRC staff during the August 2011 inspection. Submittal of the alternate decommissioning schedule addressed a previous Notice of Violation. At the time of the NRC staff's request, Cameco was expecting prompt resolution of WDEQ's remaining issues. Subsequent correspondence between Cameco and WDEQ in November 2011 indicated that significant revisions have been made to alternate decommissioning schedule and that the revised schedule has not been approved.

As the September 14, 2011 submittal no longer appears to be current, the NRC staff requests that Cameco submits its current version of the alternate decommissioning schedule within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The current version of the alternate decommissioning schedule should be submitted regardless of the status of WDEQ's review or approval. The alternate decommissioning schedule should be consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 40.42. This regulation requires that licensees complete decommissioning within 24 months of initiation. The NRC staff recognizes that in many instances, the groundwater restoration component of decommissioning may require more than 24 months to complete. Nevertheless, extensions of decommissioning schedules beyond 24 months must ensure that decommissioning/restoration will be completed as soon as practical, and that the health and safety of workers and the public will be protected. Factors the NRC staff can consider when approving an alternate decommissioning schedule are identified in 10 CFR Part 40.42(i).

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 301-415-0724, or by email at Douglas.Mandeville@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No.: 40-8964
License No.: SUA-1548

cc: Josh Leftwich, Cameco
Brent Berg

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Douglas T. Mandeville, Project Manager
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Division of Waste Management
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