

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2014

The Honorable Allison Macfarlane
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Madam Chairman:

We are writing regarding outstanding relicensing and new operating license applications for several uranium mining assets in Nebraska. Cameco Resources is the largest producer of uranium in the United States. For more than twenty years, the Crow Butte mining operation has safely produced uranium for the nation's nuclear fleet and contributed tens of millions of dollars to the economy of local communities and Nebraska as a whole.

At present, Cameco Resources employees have worked more than 1 million hours without a lost-time safety incident and the facility has never been cited by a government agency for a community-impacting pollution incident. In an effort to maintain this record, officials take nearly ten thousand water samples per year in order to ensure operations materials remain on site and away from the surrounding communities.

Despite this record and previous relicensing approval at the Crow Butte site, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has taken more than seven years to approve renewal of the facility license. Further, the operation is awaiting licenses for critical expansion facilities nearby. These sites are crucial to the continued development and production of uranium at the site. Over the last year, we have sought updates on the deliberations at the NRC, while the Commission continued to hear from local elected officials urging action in support of the mine. These officials see firsthand the economic impact of the operation. Continued delays will only hurt county operations and development, especially pertaining to education infrastructure.

In the past two months, NRC staff has reported the final environmental review document would likely be released at the end of April 2014 and a final relicensing for Crow Butte could be expected by the end of May 2014. To date, neither of these milestones has been met, and the NRC has now filed another delay.

We are proud to represent the employees and communities impacted by Cameco's Crow Butte facility and believe it is imperative the NRC act expeditiously to finalize these licenses. To ensure we fully understand the status of current deliberations, in your response we ask you provide a breakdown of outstanding issues which are delaying a final decision.

Please provide the status of these applications and reasons for the delays by August 1, 2014.
Please do not hesitate to contact our offices with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


ADRIAN SMITH


MIKE JOHANNS


DEB FISCHER