

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Strata Energy Ross In Situ Recovery Project  
Source Materials License SUA-1601, Docket No. 040-09091  
Response to Comments on Strata's July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Submittal Regarding License Condition 12.4

To Whom It May Concern:

By correspondence dated August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provided to Strata Energy, Inc. (Strata) a response to Strata's submittal regarding License Condition (LC) 12.4, dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15195A430). The NRC staff had three comments regarding the submittal. In the comments, "Attachment 1" refers to the first attachment of the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 letter. The references contained within the comments are:

- NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2013. Letter from A. Persinko to S. Hatten, dated April 22, 2013, regarding "Lost Creek Project, Source Materials License SUA-1598 License Amendment No. 1 – Technical Report Page Changes, 2011-2012 Financial Assurance Update, and Addition of Two Dryers (TACS J00562, J00662, J00665)." Washington, D.C. Accession No. ML13016A071.
- NRC (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission). 2014. Letter from L. Camper to L. Teahon, dated November 5, 2014, regarding "Materials License SUA-1534, License Renewal, Crow Butte Resources, Inc., Crow Butte Uranium In Situ Recovery Project, Dawes County, Nebraska (TAC J00555)." Washington, D.C. Accession No. ML13324A090.

**NRC Comment No. 1:**

*In Attachment 1, under the section titled "Qualified Designated Operators (Designee)", Strata stated in the last bullet:*

- *The RSO and RST will continually assess the adequacy of daily inspections completed by all qualified Designated Operators. On a recurring basis the RSO or RST will accompany Qualified Designated Operators on no less than semi-annual inspections. The RSO or RST will signify in writing by signing (initialing) and dating inspection reports completed by Designees. All training and testing will be documented in writing.*

*On the basis of programs previously approved by NRC staff, requalification will include at least: five inspections annually under supervision of an RSO or RST (NRC 2013), or; 2 inspections performed semi-*

NH5501




Strata has provided two attachments with this letter. Attachment 1 is the revised program description for Qualified Designated Operators. Attachment 2 also contains the program description for Qualified Designated Operators but shows the deleted portions and highlights the insertion of the revised commitments.

Per License Condition 12.4, Strata requests that the NRC review and verify that the qualifications and responsibilities outlined in the submitted program are sufficient. Please contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me at (307) 686-4066 or [mgriffin@stratawyo.com](mailto:mgriffin@stratawyo.com).

Sincerely,

Strata Energy, Inc.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Griffin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Griffin  
Vice President of Permitting, Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Cc: Mr. John Saxton, NRC Project Manager – **via email**



## **Attachment 1**

### **ROSS URANIUM PROJECT SUA-1601 SOURCE MATERIALS LICENSE Revised Program for Qualified Designated Operators to Conduct Daily Radiation Safety Inspections in the Absence of the RSO and RST**

#### **Qualified Designated Operators (Designee):**

The Designee is used at off-shift times (principally weekend and holidays) to complete the Daily Radiation Safety Inspection of all work and storage areas of the facility in the absence of both the RSO and the RST. The Designee will not perform more involved procedures such as contamination surveys for the release of items for unrestricted release, survey instrument calibrations, air sampling, issuing RWP's, etc. The qualified Designee may perform daily inspections on weekends, holidays, or when both the RSO and RST must be absent (e.g. illness or offsite training). A Designee shall not perform daily inspections for more than two consecutive days except in the event of a Federal or company holiday, whereby the Designee will not exceed more than three consecutive days. Reports generated by the Designee will be reviewed by the RSO or RST as soon as practical, but no later than 3 hours from the beginning of the next work day following an absence, weekend, or holiday. The Vice President of Permitting, Regulatory and Environmental Compliance, RSO, or RST(s) will be available by telephone while the qualified Designee is performing the daily inspections. The Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) shall make the determination that an individual meets the education, training, and experience requirements to be trained and qualified as a Designee. The Designee will have the following qualifications and training:

- Education: A high school diploma or equivalent. The RSO will review and approve on a case by case basis.
- Completed new employee radiation protection training and annual refresher training as required.
- At least 3 months of employment at a uranium recovery facility in the capacity of a Central Plant or IX Satellite operator, or supervisor, familiar with operations of the facility and knowledgeable of health physics, industrial safety and industrial hygiene practices used to maintain radiological levels ALARA.
- Onsite training for the Qualified Designated Operator will be conducted by the RSO and will consist of at least five (5) inspections where the trainee accompanies the RSO on daily inspections and three (3) hours of classroom type instruction. Items covered will include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - Review of the Daily Inspection Form and how to complete it.
  - Instrument checks at the personal contamination survey stations and the radon continuous air monitor (CAM), as applicable.
  - Significant spills or leaks of chemicals or process fluids that require clean up.



- General housekeeping.
  - Proper use and storage of PPE (including respirators).
  - Ventilation, heating and lighting adequacy.
  - Security concerns such as locked doors, main gate operations and the operability of video surveillance systems (if applicable).
  - Communication systems working properly (phones, 2-way radio).
  - Any unanticipated conditions or hazards that cause concern with radiation or environmental protection
- As part of the training, as a Qualified Designated Operator, the trainee will successfully complete a written test that demonstrates the trainee's proficiency with any equipment and understanding and all requirements of the inspections and use of the form. Proficiency will be acceptable with a test core of 80% or greater.
  - Prior to final approval by the RSO, the trainee will complete four (4) daily inspections without being accompanied by the RSO or RST (when the RSO or RST are at the facility) and the RSO will assess the results of each inspection to verify the adequacy of the inspection.
  - Upon successful completion of the test and unaccompanied inspections, the RSO may authorize the trainee as a Qualified Designated Operator. All documentation will be retained on file.
  - The RSO and RST will continually assess the adequacy of daily inspections completed by all Qualified Designated Operators. On a recurring basis the RSO or RST will accompany Qualified Designated Operators on no less than semi-annual inspections. A Qualified Designated Operator will also be required to complete annual refresher training on the topics discussed above. The Designee will demonstrate comprehension by completing a written test and obtaining a test score of 80% or greater. The RSO or RST will signify in writing by signing (initialing) and dating the inspection reports completed by Designees. All training and testing will be documented in writing.

- General housekeeping.
  - Proper use and storage of PPE (including respirators).
  - Ventilation, heating and lighting adequacy.
  - Security concerns such as locked doors, main gate operations and the operability of video surveillance systems (if applicable).
  - Communication systems working properly (phones, 2-way radio).
  - Any unanticipated conditions or hazards that cause concern with radiation or environmental protection
- As part of the training, as a Qualified Designated Operator, the trainee will successfully complete a written test that demonstrates the trainee's proficiency with any equipment and understanding and all requirements of the inspections and use of the form. Proficiency will be acceptable with a test core of 80% or greater.
  - Prior to final approval by the RSO, the trainee will complete four (4) daily inspections without being accompanied by the RSO or RST (when the RSO or RST are at the facility) and the RSO will assess the results of each inspection to verify the adequacy of the inspection.
  - Upon successful completion of the test and unaccompanied inspections, the RSO may authorize the trainee as a Qualified Designated Operator. All documentation will be retained on file.
  - The RSO and RST will continually assess the adequacy of daily inspections completed by all Qualified Designated Operators. On a recurring basis the RSO or RST will accompany Qualified Designated Operators on no less than semi-annual inspections. A Qualified Designated Operator will also be required to complete annual refresher training on the topics discussed above. The Designee will demonstrate comprehension by completing a written test and obtaining a test score of 80% or greater. The RSO or RST will signify in writing by signing (initialing) and dating the inspection reports completed by Designees. All training and testing will be documented in writing.