



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 23, 2016

Mr. Mark L. Azure, President
Fort Belknap Tribe
RR1 Box 66
Harlem, MT 59526-9455

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON LICENSING ACTIONS RELATED TO CAMECO RESOURCES
SMITH RANCH URANIUM IN SITU RECOVERY OPERATIONS, LICENSE
SUA-1548, CONVERSE, FREMONT, NATRONA, JOHNSON, AND CAMPBELL
COUNTIES, WYOMING (TAC NO. L00783 and J00635)**

Dear Mr. Azure:

This letter is to provide you with an update on two licensing actions the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing for Power Resources, Inc. (doing business as Cameco Resources [Cameco]) and one expected future licensing action. These licensing actions relate to Cameco's Smith Ranch uranium in situ recovery (ISR) facility, which is authorized to operate under NRC source and byproduct material license SUA-1548. This license was first issued for commercial operation in 1992. The Smith Ranch ISR facility is located in Converse County, Wyoming. Under its license, Cameco is also authorized to perform uranium ISR activities at the associated remote satellite facilities: (1) the Gas Hills ISR satellite facility in Fremont and Natrona Counties, Wyoming; (2) the North Butte ISR satellite facility in Campbell County, Wyoming; and (3) the Ruth ISR satellite facility in Johnson County, Wyoming. Enclosure 1 provides a map showing the general locations of the Smith Ranch ISR facility and each of the remote ISR satellite facilities.

Licensing Action 1 - On February 1, 2012, Cameco submitted a request to renew its NRC source and byproduct material license. If approved, this request would allow Cameco to continue ISR operations at the Smith Ranch facility and at the three remote satellite facilities. The NRC staff accepted the application for detailed review on July 5, 2012, and by letter dated December 20, 2012, the NRC invited the Fort Belknap Tribe to be a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA). On May 2, 2013, the NRC staff issued a request for additional information (RAI) to Cameco, and by letters dated November 18, 2014, and April 21, 2015, Cameco responded to the NRC's RAI. The NRC staff is proceeding with its detailed review and anticipates re-initiating the formal NHPA Section 106 consultation process in the next two months. The NRC staff will contact you once that occurs.

Licensing Action 2 - On April 10, 2015, Cameco submitted a license amendment request to increase the ground water processing flow rate at the North Butte ISR satellite facility from 4,000 gallons per minute to 6,000 gallons per minute. The license amendment request may be found in the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at ML15132A085. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Cameco is proposing to operate

equipment within existing onsite buildings and within previously approved ISR well fields at the requested higher flow rate, and thus the proposal does not include additional earth disturbing activity. The NRC staff has accepted this request for review and is proceeding with its detailed safety and environmental reviews.

Expected Future Licensing Action - By letter dated May 6, 2015, Cameco informed the NRC staff of a future license amendment request that it intends to submit to expand the footprint of operations at its North Butte ISR satellite facility. Cameco refers to this expansion area as Brown Ranch Tract 1. The NRC staff understands that Cameco plans to submit this request in mid-2016. If the application is accepted for detailed review, the NRC staff would offer an opportunity to request a hearing and conduct safety and environmental reviews of the application. The NRC staff will also initiate a formal NHPA Section 106 consultation process for this action once the detailed review is in progress.

Should you have any questions about these actions, or wish to learn more about Cameco's Smith Ranch facility, please contact me at douglas.mandeville@nrc.gov or by phone at 301-415-0724.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," 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 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
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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

Enclosure:
Map of Smith Ranch and Associated Satellites

Letters sent to:
Tribal/THPO list for Smith Ranch License Renewal

cc: Robin Jones and Luke McMahan (WDEQ)
Larry Reimann (Cameco)

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Sincerely,

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Douglas T. Mandeville, Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
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Larry Reimann (Cameco)

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OFFICE	DUWP/URLB	DUWP/URLB	FCSE	FSTLB	DUWP/URLB	OGC (NLO)	DUWP/URLB
NAME	DMandeville	SAchten	JPark	STalley	BVonTill	JOlmstead	DMandeville
DATE	1/13/16	1/13/16	1/21/16	2/18/16	2/8/16	2/26/16	3/23/16

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY



LEGEND

★ SMITH RANCH PROJECT AREA AND ASSOCIATED SATELLITES

— PRIMARY CAMCO TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

— INTERSTATE, STATE AND COUNTY ROADS

REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	BY

Cameco Resources
NRC SOURCE MATERIAL
LICENSE SUA-1548

SMITH RANCH AND REMOTE SATELLITES

FIGURE 1.1
GENERAL SUA-1548 LOCATION MAP

SIZE	SCALE	DEPARTMENT	CURRENT
11x17	SEE GRAPHIC SCALE		0

CUWCR02020148 NRC License Renewal/PPS Satellite/GENERAL LOCATION Map

Enclosure 1

List of Tribal/THPO Addresses – Smith Ranch License Renewal

Blackfeet Tribe

Mr. Harry Barnes, Chairman
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 850
Browning, MT 59417

THPO

Mr. John Murray
Blackfeet Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Browning, MT 59417

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

Mr. Eddie Hamilton, Governor
Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
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THPO

Mr. Max Bear
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
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Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Mr. Harold C. Frazier, Chairman
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Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

THPO

Mr. Steve Vance
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Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Cultural Program

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Mr. David Nelson, Director
Environmental Protection Department
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Chippewa Cree Tribe

Mr. Richard (Rick) Morsette, Chairman
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Box Elder, MT 59521

THPO

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Chippewa Cree Tribe
RR 1, Box 544
Box Elder, MT 59521

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe

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THPO

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Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe
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 Crow Agency, MT 59022

THPO

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Burial Preservation Director

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Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

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THPO

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 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
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Eastern Shoshone Tribe

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 Eastern Shoshone Tribe
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THPO

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 Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe

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THPO:

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THPO

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Environmental Protection Manager:

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Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux

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 Fort Peck Tribes
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THPO

Mr. Darrell "Curley" Youpee
 Fort Peck Tribes
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office
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Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma

Ms. Amber Toppah, Chairwoman
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THPO

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NAGPRA Representative:

Ms. Amie Tah-bone
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Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Mr. Kevin Wright, Vice Chairman
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
 187 Oyate Circle
 Lower Brule, SD 57548

THPO

Ms. Clair Green
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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Lower Sioux Tribe

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THPO

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THPO

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THPO

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Rosebud Sioux

Mr. William Kindle, Chairman
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THPO

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THPO

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THPO

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Spirit Lake Tribe

Ms. Myra Pearson, Chairperson
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THPO

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Spirit Lake Tribe
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THPO

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Three Affiliated Tribes

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THPO

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Compliance Officer

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Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

Mr. Richard McCloud, Chairman
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THPO

Mr. Bruce F. Nadeau
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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Ute Tribe

Mr. Shaun Chapoose, Chairman
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Cultural Rights/THPO

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Yankton Sioux Tribe

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THPO

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Marty, SD 57361-0248