



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

March 23, 2016

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele, President  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 2070  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

**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. Yellow Bird Steele:

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 Oglala Sioux 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](mailto: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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Docket No. 40-8964  
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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

CUWCR02-01-148-NRC License Renewal/PPS Satellite/GENERAL LOCATION Map

## **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  
P.O. Box 850  
Browning, MT 59417

### **Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma**

Mr. Eddie Hamilton, Governor  
Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma  
100 Red Moon Circle  
P.O. Box 38  
Concho, OK 73022-0038

### **THPO**

Mr. Max Bear  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 38  
Concho, OK 73022

### **Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe**

Mr. Harold C. Frazier, Chairman  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

### **THPO**

Mr. Steve Vance  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

### **Cultural Program**

Ms. Donna Rae Peterson, Administrator  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

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

### **THPO**

Alvin Windy Boy, Sr.  
Cultural Resource Preservation Office  
Chippewa Cree Tribe  
RR 1, Box 544  
Box Elder, MT 59521

### **Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe**

Mr. Vernon Finley, Chairman  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855

### **THPO**

Mr. Francis Auld  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855

### **Tribal Preservation Specialist**

Ms. Arlene Caye  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855

**Crow Tribe**

Mr. Darrin Old Coyote, Chairman  
 Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation  
 Baacheeitche Avenue  
 P.O. Box 169  
 Crow Agency, MT 59022

**THPO**

Mr. Emerson Bullchief  
 Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation  
 Baacheeitche Avenue  
 P.O. Box 169  
 Crow Agency, MT 59022

**Burial Preservation Director**

Ms. Roberta Other Medicine  
 Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation  
 Baacheeitche Avenue  
 P.O. Box 169  
 Crow Agency, MT 59022

**Crow Creek Sioux Tribe**

Ms. Roxanne Sazue, Chairwoman  
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
 P.O. Box 50  
 Ft. Thompson, SD 57339-0050

**THPO**

Mr. Darrell Zephier  
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
 P.O. Box 50  
 Ft. Thompson, SD 57339-0050

**Eastern Shoshone Tribe**

Mr. Darwin St. Clair, Jr., Chairman  
 Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
 P.O. Box 538  
 14 North Fork Road  
 Fort Washakie, WY 82514

**THPO**

Mr. Wilfred Ferris  
 Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 P.O. Box 538  
 14 North Fork Road  
 Fort Washakie, WY 82514

**Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe**

Mr. Anthony Reider, President  
 Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe  
 603 West Broad Avenue  
 P.O. Box 283  
 Flandreau, SD 57028-0283

**THPO:**

Mr. J.B. Weston  
 Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
 P.O. Box 283  
 Flandreau, SD 57028-0283

**Fort Belknap Community**

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

**THPO: Vacant**

Mr. Michael Black Wolf  
 Fort Belknap Tribe  
 RR1 Box 66  
 Harlem, MT 59526-9455

**Environmental Protection Manager:**

Ms. Ina Nez Perce  
 Fort Belknap Indian Community  
 RR1 Box 66  
 Harlem, MT 59526

**Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux**

Mr. Rusty Stafne, Chairman  
 Fort Peck Tribes  
 501 Medicine Bear Road  
 P.O. Box 1027  
 Poplar, MT 59255-1027

THPO

Mr. Darrell "Curley" Youpee  
 Fort Peck Tribes  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 P.O. Box 1027  
 Poplar, MT 59255-1027

**Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma**

Ms. Amber Toppah, Chairwoman  
 Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma  
 P.O. Box 369  
 Carnegie, OK 73015-0369

THPO

Ms. Jamie Eskew  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
 Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma  
 P.O. Box 369  
 Carnegie, OK 73015-0369

NAGPRA Representative:

Ms. Amie Tah-bone  
 Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma  
 P.O. Box 369  
 Carnegie, OK 73015-0369

**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  
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
 187 Oyate Circle  
 Lower Brule, SD 57548-0187

**Lower Sioux Tribe**

Mr. Robert Larsen, President  
 Lower Sioux Tribe  
 39527 Res. Hwy 1  
 P.O. Box 308  
 Morton, MN 56270-0308

THPO

Ms. Grace Goldtooth Campos  
 Lower Sioux Tribe  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 P.O. Box 308  
 Morton, MN 56270

**Northern Arapaho Tribe**

Mr. Dean Goggles, Chairman  
 Northern Arapaho Tribe  
 P.O. Box 396  
 Fort Washakie, WY 82514-0396

THPO

Mr. Yufna Soldier Wolf  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 Northern Arapaho Tribe  
 P.O. Box 396  
 Fort Washakie, WY 82514

**Northern Cheyenne**

Mr. Llevando Fisher, President  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
 P.O. Box 25  
 Lame Deer, MT 59043-0128

THPO

Mr. James Walksalong  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 P.O. Box 25  
 Lame Deer, MT 59043-0128

EPA Director

Ms. Charlene Alden  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
 P.O. Box 25  
 Lame Deer, MT 59043

**Oglala Sioux Tribe**

Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele, President  
 Oglala Sioux Tribe  
 P.O. Box 2070  
 Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

THPO

Mr. Dennis Yellow Thunder  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 2070  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

**Rosebud Sioux**

Mr. William Kindle, Chairman  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
11 Legion Avenue  
P.O. Box 430  
Rosebud, SD 57570-0430

THPO

Mr. Russell Eagle Bear  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 430  
Rosebud, SD 57570-0809

**Santee Sioux Nation**

Mr. Roger Trudell, Chairman  
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska  
108 Spirit Lake Avenue  
Niobrara, NE 68768

THPO

Mr. Richard Thomas  
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
108 Spirit Lake Avenue  
Niobrara, NE 68768

**Shoshone-Bannock Tribes**

Mr. Nathan Small, Chairman  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203

Environmental Program Manager

Ms. Yvette Tuell  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203

Cultural Resource Coordinator

Ms. Carolyn Boyer Smith  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203

**Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate**

Mr. Bruce Renville, Chairman  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribes  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262-0509

THPO

Ms. Dianne Desrosiers  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribes  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262-0509

**Spirit Lake Tribe**

Ms. Myra Pearson, Chairperson  
Spirit Lake Tribe  
P.O. Box 359  
Fort Totten, ND 58335-0359

THPO

Mr. Eric Longie  
Spirit Lake Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 359  
Fort Totten, ND 58335

**Standing Rock Sioux**

Mr. Dave Archambault II, Chairman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Administrative Services Center  
P.O. Box D  
Fort Yates, ND 58538-0522

THPO

Ms. Kelly Morgan  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box D  
Fort Yates, ND 58538-0522



**Three Affiliated Tribes**

Mr. Mark N. Fox, Chairman  
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, ND 58763

**THPO**

Mr. Elgin Crows Breast  
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, ND 58763-9404

**Compliance Officer**

Mr. Pete Coffey, Jr.  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, ND 58763

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**

Mr. Richard McCloud, Chairman  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, ND 58316

**THPO**

Mr. Bruce F. Nadeau  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, ND 58316

**Ute Tribe**

Mr. Shaun Chapoose, Chairman  
The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray  
Reservation  
Tribal Business Committee  
P.O. Box 190  
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026-0190

**Cultural Rights/THPO**

Ms. Betsy Chapoose  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
The Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray  
Reservation  
P.O. Box 190  
Fort Duchesne, UT 84012-0190

**Yankton Sioux Tribe**

Mr. Robert Flying Hawk, Chairman  
Yankton Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 248  
Marty, SD 57361-0248

**THPO**

Mr. Perry Little  
Yankton Sioux Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 248  
Marty, SD 57361-0248