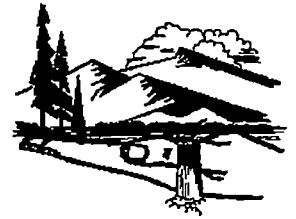




Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Matthew H. Mead, Governor

Todd Parfitt, Director

April 15, 2016

Mr. Ken Garoutte SHEQ Manager
Cameco Resources, Smith Ranch-Highland Operation
POB 1210
Glenrock, WY 82637

RE: December 2015 Excursion Report Summary dated January 7, 2016; Notification of Excursion for DM-004A dated December 8, 2015, request for determination

Dear Mr. Garoutte:

The Department of Environmental Quality-Land Quality Division (DEQ-LQD) has considered your request to determine if water quality changes noted in the December 8, 2015 report for DM-004A meet the excursion definition found in Wyoming Statute (W. S.) §35-11-103(f)(ii).

An excursion is defined in W. S. §35-11-103(f)(ii) as 'any unwanted and unauthorized movement of recovery fluid out of the production zone'. Mine Unit D (MU-D), the location of well DM-004A (replacement for DM-004), has not seen the movement of production fluid since July 2009 when injection of lixiviate ceased. Further, mine unit restoration groundwater treatment began in October 2010. Additionally, it had been recognized as early as November 2009 that the change in water quality at DM-004A and DM-003A (replacement for DM-003) was due to underground workings located in this mine unit. These facts make it difficult to label the water quality change noted at both DM-003A and DM-004A as an excursion.

The water quality change noted at DM-003A and DM-004A is not technically an excursion by W. S. definition and reporting this in the monthly excursion reports as required in Chapter 11 of the Noncoal Rules & Regulations will no longer be required. However, this change in water quality should be monitored as work to get the best possible water quality in the area continues. DEQ-LQD would like to propose that CR develop an adequate monitoring plan that would be incorporated into Volume III-H of the permit as a new appendix (Appendix M). Additionally, the operations plan of PT 633 would be revised to specify reporting requirements that would be included in the Annual Report to capture the details of this work.

If you have any questions please contact me at 307-777-8956 or robin.jones@wyo.gov.

Sincerely,

Robin Jones
DEQ-LQD District 1 Supervisor
Vegetation Ecologist

cc: Doug Mandeville