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Director
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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11545 Rockville Pike
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**Re: Status of Request for Additional Information Responses for
Smith Ranch Highland Uranium In-Situ Recovery Facility License Renewal Application
and the Crow Butte – Marsland Expansion Area License Amendment**

Director,

In letters dated December 12, 2016, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has asked Cameco Resources (Cameco) to provide a schedule for providing responses to request for additional information (RAIs) for the Smith Ranch Highland Uranium In Situ Recovery Facility license renewal application and the Crow Butte – Marsland Expansion Area license amendment.

For the Smith Ranch Highland license renewal RAIs, responses for non-health physics related RAIs will be provided by the end of the 2nd Quarter 2017. For the Marsland Expansion Area license amendment, responses for non-health physics related RAIs will also be provided by the end of the 2nd Quarter 2017.

For the health physics RAIs, more communication between the NRC and industry needs to occur, especially with issues concerning radon. As was mentioned in the Smith Ranch Highland letter, draft guidance on radon first occurred in 2011. Six years later, the guidance is still in a draft form and not usable by NRC or industry. Additionally, even though three approved monitoring plans have been approved by the NRC, no discussion by the NRC has taken place with industry on whether or not the effectiveness or additional requirements of the new monitoring plans results in any meaningful ALARA reductions. After over two years of industry performing the new monitoring programs, the NRC should be able to produce results and ways for all companies to perform the monitoring program without each and every company addressing the issue individually at great expense and resource commitment.

Cameco also encourages and supports the idea of the NRC having a workshop in the first half of 2017 that would discuss the areas of health physics that industry and NRC differ. Additionally, Cameco supports the open dialogue that has already taken place between the NRC and industry. These conversations are helpful in understanding the issues that both the NRC and industry have regarding the health physics issues.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please call me at (307) 358-6541 Ext. 458 or email mike_thomas@cameco.com.

Sincerely,



Mike Thomas
Director Safety, Health, Environment, and Quality (SHEQ)

cc: File SR 4.3.3.3
File CBO
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