

**CAMECO RESOURCES
CROW BUTTE OPERATION**



**86 Crow Butte Road
P.O. Box 169
Crawford, Nebraska 69339-0169**

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April 2, 2018

ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

CERTIFIED MAIL:

**RE: SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE SUA-1534; NOTIFICATION OF CESSATION OF
PRODUCTION AT THE CROW BUTTE MINE**

Dear Director:

On February 5, 2018, Cameco Resources announced its plan to cease production at its U.S. operations due to continued low uranium prices. This letter is intended to provide the NRC with information on what steps have been taken, and will be taken in the future, as a result of this action.

As of March 23, 2018, the Crow Butte mine had reduced production and injection flows from Mine Units 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Due to disposal limitations associated with Deep Disposal Well No. 1, some production and injection flow remains ongoing to assist with control of mining fluids. Deep Disposal Well No. 1 was returned to service on March 20, 2018, and the remaining production and injection from producing mine units will be shut off in the next 60 days. At that time, each mine unit (7-11) will continue to operate a limited number of wells to maintain a small "bleed" flow for control of mining fluids. There has been no change to the restoration plans at Crow Butte and restoration activities will continue.

Cameco continues to perform all required environmental and health physics monitoring as required by our current license. The restoration effort will take some time to complete and will result in the production and transportation of a small amount of uranium and 11e2 byproduct material that is produced as a byproduct of the restoration process.

Within the next 21 months, Cameco resources will submit Alternate Decommissioning Schedules for Crow Butte Resources. We will continue to comply with all NRC approved restoration plans and decommissioning schedules until a new alternate decommissioning schedule has been approved. All production equipment will remain in standby to provide the option to restart full operations in the future should market conditions warrant. The above mentioned Alternate Decommissioning Schedule will include a request to defer equipment decommissioning and also an integrated restoration schedule for all mine units. Cameco Resources intends to submit a request to change the NRC Licenses for Crow Butte Resources to Possession Only Licenses in the second half of 2018. We will provide updates to the NRC regarding more specific timing as we progress through the above mentioned tasks.

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Please contact Walt Nelson at 308-665-2215 at ext. 117 or email [Walter_Nelson @cameco.com](mailto:Walter_Nelson@cameco.com) if you have any questions or need additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Walter Nelson
SHEQ Coordinator
Crow Butte Resources

Cc: Deputy Director
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