



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 14, 2018

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Deputy Director  
Mail Stop T8-F5  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Termination of Hecla Mining Company's Specific License for the Durita, Colorado  
Title II Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Site

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) understands the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is very close to concurring with the Completion Review Report (CRR) prepared by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for the proposed termination of the Hecla Mining Company's specific license for the Durita, Colorado, Title II Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) site. Termination of the specific license will result in DOE-LM taking custody of the site and starting long-term surveillance and maintenance under the general license. DOE-LM has a process documented in the [Process for Transition of Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title II Disposal Sites to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management for Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance](#) that we complete before accepting possession of the site. This is generally a 2-year process; however, LM initiated the process in 2008 when closure seemed imminent and had partially completed a number of activities already, such as preparing a draft long-term surveillance plan (LTSP). I am writing to you to communicate the remaining activities in LM's transition process and their estimated timelines for completion. The estimates below are in calendar days. We assume all parties will work cooperatively to accomplish a smooth transition of the site.

- LM will initiate the transition process when NRC issues concurrence with the CRR. Following concurrence, LM will work with all parties (CDPHE, licensee, and NRC) to complete DOE files with any records needed to document the remedy and explain site conditions. We estimate the records gathering activity will take 30 days. Also following concurrence, CDPHE and NRC will need to concur in the finale property boundary.
- Following the records acquisition and property boundary finalization, LM will revise the draft LTSP and prepare an estimate of the long-term surveillance charge (LTSC). We estimate these activities will take 120 days (completed at 150 days from concurrence). The LTSP and LTSC will then be submitted to the NRC for review. We estimate the NRC will require 180 days to conduct this review (completed 330 days from concurrence).
- Also following the records acquisition and property boundary finalization, LM Real Property personnel will work to transfer the fee land from Hecla to DOE with the support of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). We estimate the real property transfer will take 365 days (completed at 395 days from concurrence).



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- Also following the records acquisition and property boundary finalization, DOE-LM will conduct a thorough evaluation of the site remedies. We estimate the technical evaluation will take 120 days (completed at 150 days from concurrence). CDPHE and the specific licensee will address any technical issues identified during the technical evaluation. We estimate the technical issues will be addressed in 90 days (completed at 250 days from concurrence).
- Following concurrence, LM will work with CDPHE and the licensee to identify and resolve other concerns LM has with the site. We estimate any concerns will be resolved in 180 days (completed at 180 days from concurrence).

These are the general activities LM plans to conduct as we work towards transition. If the activities can be completed within the estimated timelines laid out above, LM could accept the site under the general license 395 days following NRC's concurrence with the CRR.

We appreciate the support of all parties involved and look forward to regular communication as LM progresses through the transition process for the Durita site. Please contact me at (970) 248-6036 or [Ken.Kreie@lm.doe.gov](mailto:Ken.Kreie@lm.doe.gov) if you have any questions. Please address any correspondence to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Legacy Management  
2597 Legacy Way  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by KENNETH KREIE  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,  
ou=Department of Energy, cn=KENNETH  
KREIE,  
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Date: 2018.06.13 16:45:23 -06'00'

Ken Kreie, Site Manager  
Office of Legacy Management

cc:

D. Holland, Hecla Mining Company  
S. Wang, CDPHE  
S. Poy, NRC  
A. Kleinrath, DOE-LM (e)  
C. Boger, Navarro (e)  
File: DTA 0030.10 (records)