



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

August 8, 2018

Mr. Robin Jones, Supervisor  
Land Quality District 1  
200 W. 17th Street Suite 10  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR CAMECO RESOURCES PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE  
SMITH RANCH-HIGHLAND URANIUM PROJECT (SOURCE MATERIALS  
LICENSE NUMBER: SUA-1548; DOCKET NUMBER: 40-8964)

Dear Mr. Jones:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently reviewing a license renewal request from Cameco Resources (Cameco) dated February 1, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML121590502). Cameco requested renewal of NRC Source Material License SUA-1548 to authorize continued uranium in situ recovery activities at the Smith Ranch-Highland Uranium Project (the Project). The Project includes the Smith Ranch, Highland, and Reynolds Ranch sites in Converse County, the Gas Hills remote satellite site in Fremont and Natrona Counties, the North Butte remote satellite site in Campbell County, and the Ruth remote satellite site in Johnson County, Wyoming.

The NRC staff has prepared a draft environmental assessment (draft EA) in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The purpose of the draft EA is to assess the potential environmental impacts of the proposed license amendment and reasonable alternatives. The NRC staff concludes in the draft EA that approving the license renewal request would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The NRC staff is also conducting a technical evaluation of Cameco's license amendment request pursuant to 10 CFR Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material," and 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation." The results of the technical evaluation will be documented in a separate Technical Evaluation Report.

Enclosed is a copy of the draft EA for review and comment by State personnel only. The draft EA contains pre-decisional information; therefore distribution and use of this document must be limited to State staff involved in the review and comment process only. It is further requested that comments be provided to the NRC staff by August 31, 2018. The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the draft EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance.

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 the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. James Park of my staff by telephone at (301) 415-6954 or via email at [James.Park@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Park@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Cinthy I. Román, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards  
and Environmental Review  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8964  
License No. SUA-1548

Encl. Non-public:  
Draft Environmental Assessment

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DATED: August 8, 2018

**ADAMS PACKAGE ACCESSION NUMBER ML18211A379**

**\* via email**

OFC	FCSE/ERB	FCSE/ERB	OGC	FCSE/ERB
NAME	JPark	AWalker-Smith	SClark	CRomán
DATE	08/01/2018	08/ /2018	08/ /2018	08/08/2018

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