



**CAMECO RESOURCES
CROW BUTTE OPERATION**

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March 4, 2020

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

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

Subject: Mechanical Integrity Test failure at I696P-17

Dear Document Control:

On March 3, 2020 during routine 5-year Mechanical Integrity Testing (MIT), well number I696P-17 in Mine Unit 5, Wellhouse 17 failed the MIT criteria at the Crow Butte Resources (CBR) mine site. Kory Winters, of the NDEQ Chadron field office, and Ron Burrows, NRC Project Manager, were notified concerning this well on March 3, 2020.

Using isolation techniques, CBO was able to isolate the failure to the 60' joint. The water levels of Commercial Monitor wells (CM wells) in the area at a similar elevation range between 250 and 300 feet. Because I696P-17 is a producer, it is very unlikely that the water level in this well has ever approached the 60' level. I696P-17 was reversed from an injection well to a production well prior to the most recent successful MIT.

This well was last successfully mechanical integrity tested in March 2015. The well is sampled periodically, as it is a baseline restoration well for Mine Unit 5. The well casing depth is 797 feet with a K-packer set at 764 feet. The static water level of the shallow monitor wells in this area is 45 to 60 feet deep.

Upon review of this data with Amanda Osborne of the NDEQ Lincoln office, it was determined that CBR will attempt to repair the well by placing a sleeve at the impacted area. The failure is at a depth that is at CBR's limit for placing a sleeve without the benefit of a drill rig. If a drill rig is necessary, it will require extra time to complete the repair because of the time required to mobilize a drill rig. It is CBR's intention to repair the well and perform a successful MIT prior to the March 31, 2020 due date, but this may not be possible for the reasons discussed above. Because the well was a producer and due to the shallow depth of the apparent failed casing joint (60 feet), no other

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testing will be conducted. There is no indication of or any reason to believe that there has been any release of contaminants from this well.

Graphs of the sampling results for the nearest shallow monitor well, SM5-19 are included for your review.

If you have any questions or concerns on this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 308-665-2215 ext. 117.

Sincerely,

Walt Nelson
SHEQ Coordinator

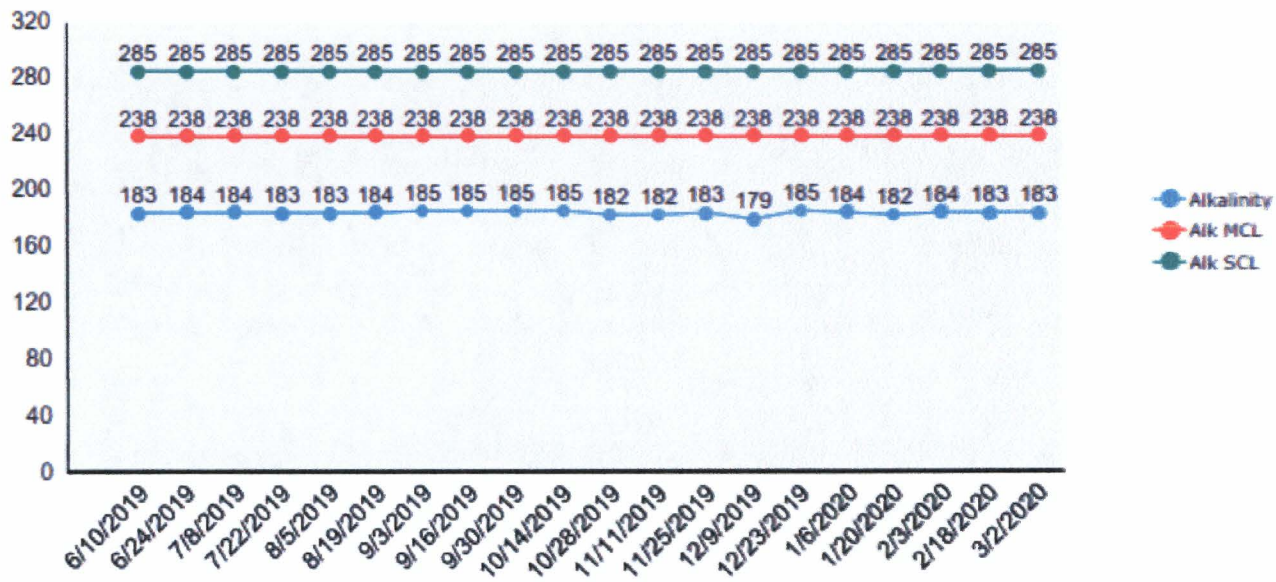
Enclosure

cc: NRC - Deputy Director, Division of Decommissioning
CBO - File

cc: CBO - File

SM05-019

Alkalinity



Chloride

