



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE  
BOX 25325  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

DEC 11 1992

URFO:DCW  
Docket No. 40-8681  
SUA-1358, Amendment No. 31  
04008681720R  
04008681740R

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8681  
FROM: Dana C. Ward, Project Manager  
SUBJECT: AMENDMENT NO. 31 TO SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE SUA-1358 FOR THE  
UMETCO, WHITE MESA MILL

By letters dated August 26, and September 2, 1992, Umetco Minerals Corporation (Umetco) requested that Source Material License SUA-1358 for the White Mesa Mill be amended to remove Monitoring Well No. 13 from License Condition No. 24(D) and to revise License Condition No. 11 to incorporate a revised organizational structure.

Umetco, in reviewing their license, discovered that License Condition No. 24(D) had not been amended to remove the requirement for quarterly ground-water sampling at Monitoring Well No. 13 which had been eliminated during construction of Cell 4A. Umetco reclaimed Monitoring Well No. 13 by grouting the hole with bentonite and cement. Two wells designated Monitoring Well Nos. 14 and 15 are proposed by Umetco to replace the well destroyed in constructing Cell 4A. These wells lie within the south dike of the Tailings cell, and ground-water quality data has been routinely collected from these wells since January 1990.

Umetco's other request was in response to personnel changes within the Umetco organization, shifting the Environmental Coordinator from the Blanding, Utah, Office to the Grand Junction, Colorado, Office. The Radiation Protection Officer (RPO) will assume the duties of the Environmental Coordinator. The RPO was also assigned the responsibilities of the Occupational Health and Safety Department. These organizational changes will be effective only during the mill's standby phase and will be re-evaluated during any future consideration of operation.

In accordance with the categorical exclusion contained in paragraph (c)(11) of 10 CFR 51.22, an environmental assessment is not required for this licensing action. That paragraph states that the categorical exclusion applies to the issuance of amendments to licenses for uranium mills provided that (1) there

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is no significant change in the types or significant increases in amounts of any effluent that may be released offsite, (2) there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, (3) there is no significant construction impact, and (4) there is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents.

The licensing action discussed in this memorandum meets these criteria as the proposed amendments involve administrative changes to the license on actions that update or revise license conditions only. An environmental report is not required from the licensee since the amendment does not meet the criteria of 10 CFR 51.60(b)(2).

The staff recommends that Source Material License SUA-1358 for the Umetco, White Mesa Mill be amended to incorporate a revised organizational structure, delete Monitoring Well No. 13, and include Monitoring Well Nos. 14 and 15 by amending the appropriate license conditions to read as follows:

11. For use in accordance with statements, representations, and conditions contained in Sections 3.6.6, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 6.2, and 6.3, and Appendix E, Section 5, of the license renewal application dated January 1985, as revised May, 1985, and submittal dated September 2, 1992, for the standby organizational structure. The licensee shall conduct operations in accordance with the conditions, representations, and statements referenced above, except where superseded by license conditions below.

Whenever the word "will" is used in the above referenced sections, it shall denote a requirement.

[Applicable Amendments: 28, 31]

24. The licensee shall implement the effluent and environmental monitoring program specified in Section 5.5 of the renewal application as revised with the following modifications or additions:
  - A. Stack sampling shall include a determination of flow rate.
  - B. TLD chips used for radon monitoring shall be exchanged and read quarterly.
  - C. Surface water samples shall also be analyzed semiannually for total and dissolved U-nat, Ra-226, and Th-230 with the exception of the Westwater Creek, which shall be sampled annually for water or sediments and analyzed as above. A sediment sample shall not be taken in place of a water sample unless a water sample was not available.
  - D. Ground-water samples from Monitoring wells 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, and the culinary water well, shall be analyzed quarterly

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for pH, specific conductance, chlorides, sulfates, TDS, and U-nat. Quarterly water level measurements shall also be made. Ground-water samples shall be analyzed semiannually for arsenic, selenium, sodium, Ra-226, Th-230, and Pb-210.

- E. Data for the quarterly ground-water parameters shall be maintained in graphical form and copies of the graphs included with the environmental monitoring reports submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 40.65.
- F. The licensee shall utilize lower limits of detection in accordance with Section 5 of Regulatory Guide 4.14, Revision 1, dated April 1980, for analysis of effluent and environmental samples.
- G. The inspections performed semiannually of the critical orifice assembly committed to in the submittal dated March 15, 1986, shall be documented. The critical orifice assembly shall be calibrated at least every 2 years against a positive displacement Roots meter to obtain the required calibration curve.

[Applicable Amendments: 2, 15, 28, 31]

The issuance of this amendment was discussed by telephone with Mr. Scott Schierman of Umetco on December 7, 1992.



Dana C. Ward  
Project Manager

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Docket File 40-8681  
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