



A Subsidiary of
Union Pacific Corporation

40-8380

RETURN TO ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, PDR

May 6, 1985

Mr. R. Dale Smith, Director
Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Box 25
Denver Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Federal Register Doc. 85-8459, dated 4-9-85
Docket No. 40-8380, SUA-1228

Rocky Mountain Energy desires that the following comments be entered into the public record regarding the Finding of No Significant Impact at the Nine Mile Lake site.

1. Permits for surface and groundwater appropriations in the State of Wyoming are granted by the Wyoming State Engineer. The notice should be changed under statement [c] to read, that "notification of POTENTIAL hazards associated with the groundwater contamination at this site would be provided to the public via the WYOMING STATE ENGINEER'S well permitting procedures."
2. The record should note that no impairment of any existing groundwater right (i.e., water well) has or will occur as a result of R&D operations conducted at the sight.
3. Statement [c] should be expanded to describe the nature of the source of contamination associated with Pattern 1. The source consists primarily of gypsum (CaSO_4) deposited within the formation, which gradually releases calcium and sulfate (soluble salts) into solution upon contact with groundwater moving through the pattern interior. It may also be appropriate to note that ambient aquifer water quality naturally occurring within one mile of the test site is essentially identical to that associated with

DESIGN PATTERNS

Certified By *Mary C. Ford*

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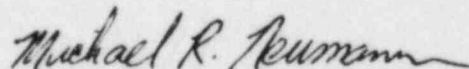
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4. The record should note the presence of an overlying aquifer (Fox Hills) of better quality water and much shallower depth within a distance of one-half mile down-gradient (east) of the test site. The cost of completing a well in the Teapot, at a depth of about 1,000 feet, could easily exceed \$10,000 versus a cost of \$1,500 to \$3,000 for completing a well in the Fox Hills. There are no existing wells of record that obtain water from the mineralized aquifer (Teapot Sandstone) within a four-mile distance down-gradient of the test site, but there are several wells completed in the Fox Hills aquifer. The two aquifers are separated by several hundred feet of competent shale, (Lewis Shale) which prevents any commingling of groundwaters.
5. Monthly groundwater samples collected within the R&D site over the last three years do not support NRC's statement that "unrecoverable lixiviant" is possibly present, as implied by statement [a] of the notice.

RME believes that inclusion of these facts in the final NRC notice will correct any misstatements and provide useful information to the public. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Neumann
Senior Licensing Specialist

0782S

cc: Mr. Robert Sundin (DEQ)
Mr. George Christopoulos (SEO)
Mr. Ed Hawkins (NRC)