

Docket File 40-8728
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 Region IV
 SWastler
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 State Health Office
 URFO r/f

40-8728/SLW/85/01/16/1

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JAN 28 1985

URFO:SLW
 Docket No. 40-8728
 04008728231E

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8728

FROM: Sandra L. Wastler, Project Manager
 Licensing Branch 1
 Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV

SUBJECT: LICENSE AMENDMENT INCLUDING EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION
 DATE, EVAPORATION POND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS, AND
 TERMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Background

By letter dated November 21, 1983, Teton Exploration Drilling Company requested that their Source Material License be amended to allow surface discharge of all water presently contained within the south Leuenberger solar evaporation pond and, thereby, eliminating the present license requirement to take pond water samples, pond level measurements and leak detection system checks. The purpose of Teton's request was to eliminate the potential for pond leakage during the current inactive period at the site and to allow the disposal of the pond sludge and possibly the old liners at a licensed disposal facility. By letter dated January 3, 1984, the NRC amended Source Material License SUA-1373 to allow surface discharge from the south Leuenberger pond and to delete License Condition Nos. 23 and 32 in accordance with the above amendment request. In the second quarterly report for 1984, the NRC was notified that the south Leuenberger solar evaporation was emptied by surface discharge of 2,544,171 gallons of treated water from April 20 to May 11, 1984. Since that discharge, Teton has not removed the pond sludge or the pond liners as indicated in the license amendment request of November 21, 1983. In addition, Teton notified URFO in the third quarterly report for 1984, that approximately 173,000 gallons of fresh water was added to the solar evaporation ponds due to plant and evaporation pond liner washdown. Teton noted that the additional water also anchored the pond liners and

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maintained a liquid seal in the sand and sludge in the pond bottoms. URFO's review of this quarterly report dated January 10, 1985, concluded that the composite water samples taken from each pond on September 17, 1984, indicated that treatment of the pond waters for at least Radon will be required before discharge or removal to a licensed disposal facility.

Recommendations and Conclusions

Due to the fact that Teton has not removed the pond sludge and liners as indicated in their amendment request of November 21, 1983, and that these ponds now contain water which must be treated, URFO staff concludes that the pond monitoring requirements of License Condition Nos. 23 and 32 should be re-instated. In addition, the URFO staff review of Source Material License SUA-1373 indicates that the license has an expiration date of January 31, 1985, and contains no license condition governing license termination. Since Teton has not completed site reclamation or decommissioning, it is not in the best interest of the Commission to allow the license to expire or to allow unrestricted termination of the license. Therefore, the URFO staff concludes that License Condition No. 4 should be modified to extend the license 1 year, and License Condition No. 37 should be added to place restrictions on license termination.

License Condition Nos. 4, 23, 32 and 37 shall read as follows:

4. January 31, 1986.
23. The two evaporation ponds shall be monitored for leaks monthly. Any fluid detected in the standpipe of the pond detection system (see Figure III.5.3.01 a and b of the Environmental Report) shall be analyzed along with a sample of pond water for bicarbonate, carbonate, chloride, sulfate, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, conductivity, pH, TDS, arsenic, selenium, radium, thorium, and uranium. If the fluid in the standpipe is similar to the liquid in the pond, a pond leak will have been detected and the NRC shall be notified within forty-eight (48) hours. The licensee shall take steps to immediately repair the leaking pond(s). A report shall be filed with the NRC, Uranium Recovery Field Office, within thirty (30) days of discovering the leak, that details the actions taken to repair the pond(s) and the results of those actions. To determine the effect of evaporation on pond water quality, the water in both

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ponds shall be sampled at least annually for those parameters defined above and the results reported in the quarterly report as described in License Condition No. 35. .

32. In the solar evaporation ponds, as shown on Figures III.5.3.01 a and b of the Environmental Report, there shall be no less than 2.4 feet of freeboard between the crest of the embankment and the surface of the operating pool.
37. This license shall not be terminated or the surety released until the NRC has determined that all site reclamation, decommissioning, and well field restoration has met applicable standards and regulations.

All other conditions of this license shall remain the same.

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Sandra L. Wastler, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 1
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Original Signed By
Edward F. Hawkins

Approved by:

Edward F. Hawkins, Chief
Licensing Branch 1
Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV

Case Closed: 04008728231E

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