

Docket File 40-8697
 LFMB/DCS/PDR
 DBangart, RIV
 Swastler
 WDEQ
 JHaes, RCPD, WY
 URFO r/f

40-8697/SLW/85/09/11/1

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URFO:SLW
 Docket No. 40-8697
 SUA-1338, Amendment No. 9
 0408697261E

MEMORANDUM FOR: Docket File No. 40-8697

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

SUBJECT: LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST - RENO CREEK R&D PROJECT

By letter dated September 4, 1985, Rocky Mountain Energy Company (RMEC) requested that Source Material License SUA-1338 be amended to extend the expiration date and to allow the removal and transport to Bear Creek Uranium Mill of evaporation pond sludge prior to site decommissioning. The NRC staff evaluation of the license amendment request is contained in the following paragraphs.

License Extension

In September 1983, Source Material License SUA-1338 was extended for a period of 1 year to allow RMEC sufficient time to submit a site decommissioning plan and to allow final site closure activities. During this year period, RMEC has submitted and NRC has approved a site decommissioning plan which the NRC has stipulated cannot be implemented until the NRC has approved the restoration and stability of Pattern 1. Final ground-water samples for confirmation of stability of water quality in Pattern 1 is scheduled by NRC and WDEQ for September 17, 1985. Laboratory analysis of these samples will not be complete until the end of October, at the earliest. Therefore, in all probability, the NRC's approval of Pattern 1 restoration and stability will not be issued until November 1985, and as a result, RMEC will not be able to begin site decommissioning until late in 1985.

Evaporation Pond Sludge Removal

RMEC has been making efforts since June to reduce the effluent volume in the evaporation pond so reclamation could begin in the Fall of 1985. At

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the present time, the ratio of liquid to solid wastes in the pond is such that mixing the wastes to a slurry will allow them to be pumped from the ponds without heavy equipment in the pond. The sludge can then be transported to Bear Creek for disposal without damaging the integrity of the pond or the pond liner. In this manner, the pond would remain suitable for additional effluent disposal if necessary. RMEC proposed sludge removal will be conducted in accordance with the approved site decommission plan.

Recommendations and Conclusions

Based on the review of all applicable data, I conclude that RMEC's request for license extension and removal of sludge as described in their letter of September 4, 1985, is acceptable.

I hereby recommend that Source Material License No. SUA-1338 be amended by modifying License Conditions No. 4 and No. 35 to read as follows:

4. Expiration Date: September 30, 1986.

35. With the exception of the removal of sludge from the evaporation pond, implementation of the decommissioning plan is prohibited until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Uranium Recovery Field Office, has approved restoration of Pattern 1 at the Reno Creek ISL Facility. The removal of the sludge from the evaporation pond and its transfer to a licensed disposal facility shall be as described in the licensee's letter of September 4, 1985, and in accordance with the approved decommissioning plan in License Condition No. 34.

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

Original Sign of
Edward F. Hawkins

Approved by:

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

Case Closed: 04008697261E

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