

CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.

86 Crow Butte Road
P.O. Box 169
Crawford, Nebraska 69339-0169

(308) 665-2215
(308) 665-2341 - FAX

December 10, 1996

Mr. Joseph Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
NMSS (T-7-J9)
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguard
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Docket No. 40-8943
License No. SUA-1534

Dear Mr. Holonich:

On November 8, 1996, a puddle of high conductivity water (>4000 micromhos/cm) was discovered near the injection well I752a-14. Upon further investigation, the cause of the leak was found to be an abandoned mining well. The abandoned well was the original I752-14, but due to a casing leak at about 100 feet, the well did not pass the Mechanical Integrity Testing (MIT) and it was plugged and abandoned. I752a-14 was drilled as a replacement well. The leak occurred when water was forced up the inside of the abandoned well and made its way to the surface. A packer was seated in the abandoned well below the original hole in the casing to prevent any migration of mining fluids to the surface.

On December 2, 1996, a Grundfos JP-5 jet pump was installed to begin pumping from the well to investigate the possibility that mining solution may have leaked into the shallow aquifer. To ensure that a representative water sample would be collected, approximately 600 gallons were pumped before a sample was collected on December 3, 1996. The conductivity of this sample was 2130 micromhos/cm indicating a possible problem. A second sample was collected on December 4, 1996 after an additional 464 gallons was pumped. This sample confirmed the results of the first sample with a conductivity of 2120 micromhos/cm. Although the circumstance of such a leak is not specifically addressed in our license, the discussion of excursions in License Conditions 45 and 46 was used as a guide. After the analysis of the second sample was received, Mr. Jim Park of the

1/1
N45

9612180393 961210
PDR ADOCK 04008943
C PDR

Mr. Joseph Holonich, Chief

December 10, 1996

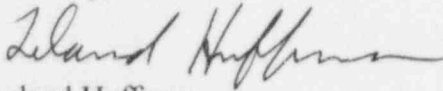
Page Two

USNRC was notified by telephone of these results on the morning of December 5, 1996. Table 1 (attached) is the analyses of the sampled water from the top 100 feet of I752-14.

CBR will delineate the problem area around well I752-14. In addition, we will determine the best means of recovering the solutions from this area and implement that recovery program.

If you need any additional information regarding this area, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leland Huffman".

Leland Huffman

Wellfield Engineer

Attachments

cc: Ross Scarano - Region IV

Stephen Collings

Rhonda Grantham

Table 1

Water Analyses to Date 9-Dec-96 of Well I752-14

well	date	time	u3o8	Na	Cl	SO4	cond	alk	pH	Ca	V
I752	12/03/96	12:40 PM	1.3	410	228	389	2130	370	8.04	61	0.2
I752	12/04/96	01:38 PM	1.3	390	232	374	2120	350	7.73	66	0.2