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40-4492/PJG/85/09/26/0

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Docket File 4492
LFMB/DCS/PDR
DBangart, RIV
PGarcia
WDEQ (2)
JHaes, RCPD, WY
URFO r/f

URFO: PJG
Docket No. 40-4492
SUA-667, Amendment No. 23
040044920300

American Nuclear Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Niles J. Andrus,
Vice President-Operations
P.O. Box 2713
Casper, WY 82602

Gentlemen:

We have completed our review of your June 13, 1985 request to withdraw from active consideration your previous request for renewal of Source Material License SUA-667. Your letter of June 13 also indicates your intention to begin the reclamation of Tailings Pond No. 1 within eighteen months, regardless of the decision rendered by the Department of Energy regarding the final disposition of the tailings and contaminated material associated with the Susquehanna site.

We agree to withdraw from active consideration the renewal request, and feel that the action will be in the best interests of American Nuclear Corporation. The withdrawal will negate the need for ANC to meet current NRC staff requirements for an active license with regard to tailings disposal capacity which is in conformance with the EPA 40 CFR 192 standard. We have therefore redirected our previous efforts toward license renewal, and are hereby issuing an amendment to SUA-917 which in effect reissues the license in a form and with requirements appropriate for a mill in a decommissioning mode. A copy of the reissued license is enclosed.

We also agree with your intention to initiate reclamation of Tailings Pond No. 1 within eighteen months. However, this intention does not alter our position that interim stabilization of Tailings Pond No. 1 to prevent or minimize the blowing of tailings and the recharge of the tailings by natural precipitation events or the disposal of pumpback water should be achieved within a reasonable time frame. To this end,

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the reissued license includes requirements that interim stabilization of Tailings Pond No. 1 be completed by October 1, 1986, and that final reclamation activities be initiated by July 1, 1987. In addition, please note that Condition No. 14 of the reissued license (previously Condition No. 19) requires the submittal of a program for interim stabilization of a tailings pond within six months of the determination that the pond will no longer be used for tailings disposal. The proposal will be due six months from the date of this letter.

Please note that your request for modifications to the environmental air sampling program have been incorporated into the reissued license. However, we have not completed our review of proposed changes to the ground water monitoring program. We are in the process of completing our review and coordinating a modified program with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Thus, the existing ground water monitoring program is incorporated into the reissued license. We expect to amend your license to incorporate a revised program within thirty days.

The reissuance of the license was discussed via telecon between H. Pettengill and P. Garcia of my staff and Niles Andrus of ANC on October 2, 1985. Mr. Andrus had no objections to the reissued license. If you have any questions regarding the reissued license or our ongoing ground water review, please do not hesitate to contact us.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/s/
R. Dale Smith, Director
Uranium Recovery Field Office
Region IV

Enclosure: Source Material License SUA-667

Case Closed: 040044920300

URFO	URFO	URFO			
PGarcia	HPettengill	RDSmith			
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