

May 2, 1997

Ms. Georgia Cash, District 1 Supervisor
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY NRC/STATE OF WYOMING MEETING/TELECONFERENCE ON
URANIUM RECOVERY LICENSEES

Dear Ms. Cash:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the enclosed teleconference minutes from the quarterly Nuclear Regulatory Commission/State of Wyoming meeting/teleconference on uranium recovery licensees that was conducted on April 8, 1997. As was agreed during the teleconference, a list of the NRC project managers for the Wyoming sites is also enclosed. If you have any questions concerning this letter or the enclosures, please contact Robert Tinsley, of my staff, at (301) 415-6251.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by Daniel M. Gillen for)

Charles L. Cain, Acting Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures: As stated

cc: Rick Chancellor, WDEQ

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TELECONFERENCE RECORD

NRC HEADQUARTERS STAFF MEMBERS INVOLVED: Chuck Cain (NMSS/DWM)
Charlotte Abrams (NMSS/DWM)
Robert Tinsley (NMSS/DWM)
Jane Marshall (NMSS/DWM)

DATE: April 8, 1997 (10:30 a.m. EDT)

Meeting/Teleconference Location: NRC Headquarters
Two White Flint North, Room T7E-47

<u>PERSONS IN CONTACT</u>	<u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBERS</u>
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Joe Holonich ¹	NRC/DNMS (REG-IV)	(817) 860-8186
Georgia Cash	WDEQ/DISTRICT 1	(307) 777-7047
April Lafferty	WDEQ/DISTRICT 1	(307) 777-7047
Roberta Hoy	WDEQ/DISTRICT 1	(307) 777-7047
Matt Jankovsky	WDEQ/DISTRICT 1	(307) 777-7047

¹participated in meeting via telephone from NRC Region IV offices, Arlington, TX

SUBJECT: NRC/STATE OF WYOMING MEETING/TELECONFERENCE ON URANIUM
RECOVERY LICENSEES

SUMMARY:

The following narrative provides a summary of the items discussed during the April 8, 1997, meeting/teleconference.

1) Petrotomics, SHIRLEY BASIN (PM - Mohammad Haque)

The NRC indicated that the ACL application review will be complete this fiscal year; and that riprap durability acceptance is also under review. WDEQ wants to know if the origin of the riprap is the same as the origin of the UMETCO riprap. NRC's concerns deal only with the quality and placement of the riprap. Mohammad Haque, NRC project manager, will contact Roberta Hoy, WDEQ, as a follow up to the teleconference.

WDEQ also had a question about jurisdiction in the NRC restricted area. It was determined that the NRC restricted area was not within the WDEQ permit area.

2) Pathfinder, SHIRLEY BASIN (PM - Mohammad Haque)

The NRC indicated that the reclamation plan is under review and will be complete this fiscal year. WDEQ wanted to know information about an alleged tailings water release. The NRC indicated that the water was from mine tailings for which NRC has no jurisdiction, and that there was no impact to the mill tailings area. Mohammad Haque, NRC project manager, will contact Roberta Hoy, WDEQ, as a follow up to the teleconference.

3) Pathfinder, LUCKY MC (PM - Mohammad Haque)

The NRC indicated a meeting between NRC staff and the licensee was held on April 8, 1997, to discuss:

- 1) alternative reclamation design for the solution ponds area;
- 2) tailings dewatering activities;
- 3) update on Reid Draw characterization and available options;
- 4) proposed extension of the radon barrier and erosion protection over more of the mill ore pad area;
- 5) various aspects of the contaminated soil cleanup program, etc.

4) Pathfinder, RUTH/NORTHBUTTE (PM - Janet Lambert)

The NRC indicated that an inspection has been scheduled for April 28, 1997. NRC's currently notifies WDEQ through Chuck Fraley, WDEQ's emergency response coordinator, as directed by the governor of Wyoming. WDEQ indicated that they will look into changing the NRC's contact in an attempt to have better coordination between the WDEQ and the NRC on inspections.

5) PRI, GAS HILLS (PM - Jane Marshall)

The NRC indicated that it is expecting a re-submittal of an application for the PRI, Gas Hills project. WDEQ also deemed the original application to be unacceptable. The results of recent inspections by both the NRC and WDEQ were discussed.

6) Rio Algom, SMITH RANCH (PM - Robert Tinsley)

The recently submitted application for license renewal and the Pre-Operational Data Submittal for Wellfield One were discussed. NRC is currently evaluating the the Pre-Operational Data Submittal for Wellfield One. NRC's review of the license renewal application will begin when the licensee forwards its proposed Performance Based License.

7) Union Pacific, BEAR CREEK (PM - Charlotte Abrams)

The NRC indicated it is currently reviewing a request for Alternate Concentration Limits (ACLs) for groundwater for the Bear Creek site and has committed to the licensee to complete its review by May 15, 1997, unless the staff identifies a need for additional information in the course of its review. NRC staff will participate in a WDEQ/Bear Creek meeting regarding the ACLs request on April 15, 1997.

8) Kennecott, SWEETWATER (PM - Charlotte Abrams)

The licensee plans to submit an application for restart of the mill and a revised reclamation plan in June 1997. NRC indicated that the staff is currently reviewing a request for a 10-year license for the Sweetwater facility and a request for an amendment to dispose of ISL material from the Crowe Butte Resources site.

9) US Energy Corp., GREEN MOUNTAIN ION EXCHANGE FACILITY (GMIX) (PM - Jim Park)

NRC approved a site decommissioning plan for GMIX on September 4, 1996.

10) UMETCO, GAS HILLS (PM - Mohammad Haque)

A groundwater corrective action plan (CAP) amendment request is under review by the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, the NRC contractor. The NRC also indicated that a meeting between the licensee and NRC staff is scheduled to be held on April 15, 1997, to discuss the CAP and other issues, including proposed modification to the approved reclamation plans for the A-9 and above-grade tailings impoundments. WDEQ indicated that UMETCO is having permitting problems with regards to the riprap borrow source.

11) Exxon, HIGHLANDS (PM - Janet Lambert)

The NRC is expecting a revised ACLs application this fiscal year.

12) Cogema, IRIGARY and CHRISTENSEN RANCH (PM - Janet Lambert)

The NRC indicated that operation of wellfield 6 was approved under the performance based license condition (PBLC) issued 12/96. The PBLC allows opening of wellfields without NRC application/review. An NRC inspection was scheduled for the week of April 28, 1997.

13) Western Nuclear, SPLIT ROCK (PM - Bob Carlson)

The NRC indicated that the licensee submitted an amendment request for groundwater CAP recovery reduction under consideration by NRC. WDEQ is expecting this package in the mail. On April 3, 1996, the NRC received a soil cleanup verification program for review and acceptance.

14) ANC (PM - Ken Hooks)

NRC is reviewing the final reclamation plan for pile #2. The NRC received groundwater data March 26, 1997. WDEQ indicated that they would be sending a groundwater assessment and corrective action plan based on recent data.

15) Energy Fuels Nuclear, RENO CREEK (PM - Harold Lefevre)

A recent NRC Region IV inspection of the site on July 15, 1996, was discussed. NRC was requested by EFN to await review and approval of common interest (NRC/State of Wyoming) items of concern (chiefly groundwater-related) prior to initiation of NRC's restart review.

Next Quarterly Teleconference

The next quarterly teleconference is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 1997, as 10:30 a.m. EST. WDEQ indicated that all of the districts would be represented in this upcoming teleconference.

FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:

Robert Tinsley will coordinate the next teleconference, to include the agenda. He can be reached at (301) 415-6251.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION/MEETING OF APRIL 8, 1997, DOCUMENTED BY J. ROBERT TINSLEY

Project	Abbrev.	Docket #	NRC Project Manager	Licensee Contact/Phone
TITLE II SITES				
<u>Conventional Mills:</u>				
ANC-Gas Hills	ANC	40-4492	Kenneth Hooks (301) 415-7777	Bill Salisbury - (307) 234-6059
ARCO-Bluewater	ABW	40-8902	Kenneth Hooks (301) 415-7777	Nat Patel - (505) 287-4593
Atlas-Moab	ATM	40-3453	Myron Fliegel (301) 415-6629	Richard Blubaugh - (303) 629-2440 Fax (303) 629-2445
Exxon-Highlands	EXH	40-8102	Janet Lambert (301) 415-6710	Dave Range, Staff Eng. - (713) 978-5438 and Russ Taylor, Site Contractor - (307) 436-8513
Homestake-Grants	HSG	40-8903	Kenneth Hooks (301) 415-7777	Roy Cellan - (505) 287-4456
Kernecott-Sweetwater	KSW	40-8584	Charlotte Abrams (301) 415-5808	Oscar Paulson, Site Mgr - (307) 324-4924 and James Berson, HQ - (801) 322-7285
Pathfinder-Lucky Mc	PLM	40-2259	Mohammad Haque (301) 415-6640	Tom Hardgrove - (307) 234-5019
Pathfinder-Shirley Basin	PSB	40-6622	Mohammad Haque (301) 415-6640	Tom Hardgrove - (307) 234-5019
Petrotomics-Shirley Basin	PET	40-6659	Mohammad Haque (301) 415-6640	Ron Juday - (307) 234-9341
Plateau-Shootaring Canyon	PSC	40-8698	James Park (301) 415-6699	Ken Webber - (307) 856-9271
Quivira-Ambrosia Lake	QAL	40-8905	Kenneth Hooks (301) 415-7777	Bill Ferdinand - (405) 842-1773

Project	Abbrev.	Docket #	NRC Project Manager	Licensee Contact/Phone
Pio Algom-Lisbon	RAL	40-8084	Mike Fliegel (301) 415-6629	Marvin Freeman - (405) 848-1187
Sohio Western-L-Bar	SWL	40-8904	Charlotte Abrams (301) 415-5808	Dave Crouch - (801) 322-7280 and Tom Osborn, Site Contractor - (512) 346-2000
TVA-Edgemont	TVA	40-1341	Ted Johnson (301) 415-6658	Joe Virgona - (970) 248-6006
Umetco-Gas Hills	UGH	40-0299	Mohammad Haque (301) 415-6640	Bert Hankins - (307) 457-2311
EFN-White Mesa	EWM	40-8681	Jim Park (301) 415-6699	William N. Deal (801) 678-2221 - Michelle Rehman (303) 899-5647
UNC-Church Rock	UNC	40-8907	Kenneth Hooks (301) 415-7777	Ed Morales - (505) 722-6651 Juan Velasquez - (505) 262-1800
Union Pacific-Bear Creek	UBC	40-8452	Charlotte Abrams (301) 415-5808	Gary Chase, RSO (307) 358-2511 and Ernie Scott, Operations Mgr - (801) 250-9474
WNI-Split Rock	WNS	40-1162	Robert Carlson (301) 415-8165	Stephanie Baker - (303) 989-8675

Project	Abbrev.	Docket #	NRC Project Manager	Licensee Contact/Phone
<u>In-Situ Sites:</u>				
EPN-Reno Creek	ERC	40-9024	Harold Lefevre (301) 415-6678	Terry Wetz - (303) 623-8317
Crow Butte Resources	CBR	40-8943	James Park (301) 415-6699	Steve Collings - (303) 825-2266
HRI-Crown Point	HRC	40-8968	Robert Carlson (301) 415-8165	Mark Pelizza - (214) 387-7777
Pathfinder-North Butte	PNB	40-8981	Janet Lambert (301) 415-6710	Donna Wichers - (307) 234-5019
PRI-Highland	PRH	40-8857	Jane Marshall (301) 415-6390	Bill Kearney - (307) 358-6541
Rio Algom-Smith Ranch	RAS	40-8964	Robert Tinsley (301) 415- 6678 6678	Bill Ferdinand - (405) 848-1190
COMIN-Irigary/Christ.	CIC	40-8502	Janet Lambert (301) 415-6710	Donna Wichers - (307) 234-5019
<u>Other Facilities:</u>				
Grace Energy	GRC	40-8912	Dan Rom (301) 415-6704	(Info forthcoming)
US Energy-Green Mt	USE	40-8971	James Park (301) 415-6699	Ken Webber - (307) 856-9271
Envirocare	ENV	40-8989	Harold Lefevre (301) 415-6678	Ken Alkemu - (801) 532-1330