

MATERIALS LICENSE

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438), and Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Parts 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, and 70, and in reliance on statements and representations heretofore made by the licensee, a license is hereby issued authorizing the licensee to receive, acquire, possess, and transfer byproduct, source, and special nuclear material designated below; to use such material for the purpose(s) and at the place(s) designated below; to deliver or transfer such material to persons authorized to receive it in accordance with the regulations of the applicable Part(s). This license shall be deemed to contain the conditions specified in Section 183 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and is subject to all applicable rules, regulations, and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now or hereafter in effect and to any conditions specified below.

Licensee		3. License Number
1. International Uranium (USA) Corporation [Applicable Amendments: 2]		SUA-1358, Amendment No. 3
2. 6425 S. Highway 191 P.O. Box 809 Blanding, Utah 84511 [Applicable Amendments: 2]	4. Expiration Date	March 31, 2007
	5. Docket or Reference No.	40-8681
6. Byproduct, Source, and/or Special Nuclear Material	7. Chemical and/or Physical Form	8. Maximum Amount that Licensee May Possess at Any One Time Under This License
Natural Uranium	Any	Unlimited

SECTION 9: Administrative Conditions

- 9.1 The authorized place of use shall be the licensee's White Mesa uranium milling facility, located in San Juan County, Utah.
- 9.2 All written notices and reports to the NRC required under this license, with the exception of incident and event notifications under 10 CFR 20.2202 and 10 CFR 40.60 requiring telephone notification, shall be addressed to the Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

Incident and event notifications that require telephone notification shall be made to the NRC Operations Center at (301) 816-5100.

- 9.3 The licensee shall conduct operations in accordance with statements, representations, and conditions contained in the license renewal application submitted by letter dated August 23, 1991, as revised by submittals dated January 13, and April 7, 1992, November 22, 1994, July 27, 1995, December 13, and December 31, 1996, and January 30, 1997, which are hereby incorporated by reference, and for the Standby Trust Agreement, dated April 29, 1997, except where superseded by license conditions below.

Whenever the word "will" is used in the above referenced documents, it shall denote a requirement. [Applicable Amendments: 2]

- 9.4 A. The licensee may, without prior NRC approval, and subject to the conditions specified in Part B of this condition:

(1) Make changes in the facility or process, as presented in the application.

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- (2) Make changes in the procedures presented in the application.
 - (3) Conduct tests or experiments not presented in the application.
- B. The licensee shall file an application for an amendment to the license, unless the following conditions are satisfied.
- (1) The change, test, or experiment does not conflict with any requirement specifically stated in this license, or impair the licensee's ability to meet all applicable NRC regulations.
 - (2) There is no degradation in the essential safety or environmental commitments in the license application, or provided by the approved reclamation plan.
 - (3) The change, test, or experiment is consistent with the conclusions of actions analyzed and selected in the EA dated February 1997.
- C. The licensee's determinations concerning Part B of this condition, shall be made by a "Safety and Environmental Review Panel (SERP)." The SERP shall consist of a minimum of three individuals. One member of the SERP shall have expertise in management and shall be responsible for managerial and financial approval changes; one member shall have expertise in operations and/or construction and shall have responsibility for implementing any operational changes; and, one member shall be the corporate radiation safety officer (CRSO) or equivalent, with the responsibility of assuring changes conform to radiation safety and environmental requirements. Additional members may be included in the SERP as appropriate, to address technical aspects such as health physics, groundwater hydrology, surface-water hydrology, specific earth sciences, and other technical disciplines. Temporary members or permanent members, other than the three above-specified individuals, may be consultants.
- D. The licensee shall maintain records of any changes made pursuant to this condition until license termination. These records shall include written safety and environmental evaluations, made by the SERP, that provide the basis for determining changes are in compliance with the requirements referred to in Part B of this condition. The licensee shall furnish, in an annual report to NRC, a description of such changes, tests, or experiments, including a summary of the safety and environmental evaluation of each. In addition, the licensee shall annually submit to the NRC changed pages to the Operations Plan and Reclamation Plan of the approved license application to reflect changes made under this condition.

The licensee's SERP shall function in accordance with the standard operating procedures submitted by letter dated June 10, 1997.

[Applicable Amendments: 3]

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- 9.5 The licensee shall maintain an NRC-approved financial surety arrangement, consistent with 10 CFR 40, Appendix A, Criteria 9 and 10, adequate to cover the estimated costs, if accomplished by a third party, for decommissioning and decontamination of the mill and mill site, for reclamation of any tailings or waste disposal areas, ground-water restoration as warranted and for the long-term surveillance fee. Within three months of NRC approval of a revised reclamation/decommissioning plan, the licensee shall submit, for NRC review and approval, a proposed revision to the financial surety arrangement if estimated costs in the newly approved plan exceed the amount covered in the existing financial surety. The revised surety shall then be in effect within 3 months of written NRC approval.

Annual updates to the surety amount, required by 10 CFR 40, Appendix A, Criteria 9 and 10, shall be submitted to the NRC at least 3 months prior to the anniversary date which is designated as June 4 of each year. If the NRC has not approved a proposed revision to the surety coverage 30 days prior to the expiration date of the existing surety arrangement, the licensee shall extend the existing surety arrangement for 1 year. Along with each proposed revision or annual update, the licensee shall submit supporting documentation showing a breakdown of the costs and the basis for the cost estimates with adjustments for inflation, maintenance of a minimum 15 percent contingency fee, changes in engineering plans, activities performed and any other conditions affecting estimated costs for site closure. The basis for the cost estimate is the NRC approved reclamation/decommissioning plan or NRC approved revisions to the plan. The previously provided guidance entitled "Recommended Outline for Site Specific Reclamation and Stabilization Cost Estimates" outlines the minimum considerations used by the NRC in the review of site closure estimates. Reclamation/decommissioning plans and annual updates should follow this outline.

The currently approved surety instrument, Performance Bond 18-23-17, issued by National Union Fire Insurance Company in favor of the NRC, and the associated Standby Trust Agreement, dated April 29, 1997, shall be continuously maintained in an amount not less than \$11,278,131 for the purpose of complying with 10 CFR 40, Appendix A, Criteria 9 and 10, until a replacement is authorized by the NRC.

[Applicable Amendments: 2, 3]

- 9.6 Standard operating procedures shall be established and followed for all operational process activities involving radioactive materials that are handled, processed, or stored. SOPs for operational activities shall enumerate pertinent radiation safety practices to be followed. Additionally, written procedures shall be established for non-operational activities to include in-plant and environmental monitoring, bioassay analyses, and instrument calibrations. An up-to-date copy of each written procedure shall be kept in the mill area to which it applies.

All written procedures for both operational and non-operational activities shall be reviewed and approved in writing by the radiation safety officer (RSO) before implementation and whenever a change in procedure is proposed to ensure that proper radiation protection principles are being applied. In addition, the RSO shall perform a documented review of all existing operating procedures at least annually.

- 9.7 Before engaging in any activity not previously assessed by the NRC, the licensee shall administer a cultural resource inventory. All disturbances associated with the proposed development will be completed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (as

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amended) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (as amended) and its implementing regulations (43 CFR 7).

In order to ensure that no unapproved disturbance of cultural resources occurs, any work resulting in the discovery of previously unknown cultural artifacts shall cease. The artifacts shall be inventoried and evaluated in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, and no disturbance shall occur until the licensee has received authorization from the NRC to proceed.

The licensee shall avoid by project design, where feasible, the archeological sites designated "contributing" in the report submitted by letter dated July 28, 1988. When it is not feasible to avoid a site designated "contributing" in the report, the licensee shall institute a data recovery program for that site based on the research design submitted by letter from C. E. Baker of Energy Fuels Nuclear to Mr. Melvin T. Smith, Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), dated April 13, 1981.

The licensee shall recover through archeological excavation all "contributing" sites listed in the report which are located in or within 100 feet of borrow areas, stockpile areas, construction areas, or the perimeter of the reclaimed tailings impoundment. Data recovery fieldwork at each site meeting these criteria shall be completed prior to the start of any project related disturbance within 100 feet of the site, but analysis and report preparation need not be complete.

Additionally, the licensee shall conduct such testing as is required to enable the Commission to determine if those sites designated as "Undetermined" in the report and located within 100 feet of present or known future construction areas are of such significance to warrant their redesignation as "contributing." In all cases, such testing shall be completed before any aspect of the undertaking affects a site.

Archeological contractors shall be approved in writing by the Commission. The Commission will approve an archeological contractor who meets the minimum standards for a principal investigator set forth in 36 CFR Part 66, Appendix C, and whose qualifications are found acceptable by the SHPO.

- 9.8 The licensee is hereby authorized to possess byproduct material in the form of uranium waste tailings and other uranium byproduct waste generated by the licensee's milling operations authorized by this license. Mill tailings shall not be transferred from the site without specific prior approval of the NRC in the form of a license amendment. The licensee shall maintain a permanent record of all transfers made under the provisions of this condition.
- 9.9 The licensee is hereby exempted from the requirements of Section 20.1902 (e) of 10 CFR Part 20 for areas within the mill, provided that all entrances to the mill are conspicuously posted in accordance with Section 20.1902 (e) and with the words, "Any area within this mill may contain radioactive material."
- 9.10 Release of equipment or packages from the restricted area shall be in accordance with "Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source, or Special Nuclear Material," dated May 1987, or suitable alternative procedures approved by the NRC prior to any such release.

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SECTION 10: Operational Controls, Limits, and Restrictions

- 10.1 The mill production rate shall not exceed 4380 tons of yellowcake per year.
- 10.2 All liquid effluents from mill process buildings, with the exception of sanitary wastes, shall be returned to the mill circuit or discharged to the tailings impoundment.
- 10.3 Freeboard limits for Cells 1-I, 3, and 4A, and tonnage limits for Cell 3, shall be as stated in Section 3.0 to Appendix E of the approved license application.
- 10.4 Disposal of material and equipment generated at the mill site shall be conducted as described in the licensee's submittals dated December 12, 1994 and May 23, 1995, with the following addition:
 - A. The maximum lift thickness for materials placed over tailings shall be less than 4-feet thick. Subsequent lifts shall be less than 2-feet thick. Each lift shall be compacted by tracking of heavy equipment, such as a Cat D-6, at least 4 times prior to placement of subsequent lifts.
- 10.5 In accordance with the licensee's submittal dated May 20, 1993, the licensee is hereby authorized to dispose of byproduct material generated at licensed in situ leach facilities, subject to the following conditions:
 - A. Disposal of waste is limited to 5000 cubic yards from a single source.
 - B. All contaminated equipment shall be dismantled, crushed, or sectioned to minimize void spaces. Barrels containing waste other than soil or sludges shall be emptied into the disposal area and the barrels crushed. Barrels containing soil or sludges shall be verified to be full prior to disposal. Barrels not completely full shall be filled with tailings or soil.
 - C. All waste shall be buried in Cell No. 3 unless prior written approval is obtained from the NRC for alternate burial locations.
 - D. All disposal activities shall be documented. The documentation shall include descriptions of the waste and the disposal locations, as well as all actions required by this condition. An annual summary of the amounts of waste disposed of from off-site generators shall be sent to the NRC.
- 10.6 The licensee is authorized to receive and process source materials from the Allied Signal Corporation's Metropolis, Illinois, facility in accordance with the amendment request dated June 15, 1993.
- 10.7 The licensee is authorized to receive and process source material from Allied Signal, Inc. of Metropolis, Illinois, in accordance with the amendment request dated September 20, 1996, and amended by letters dated October 30, and November 11, 1996.
- 10.8 The licensee is authorized to receive and process source material, in accordance with the amendment request dated March 5, 1997. [Applicable Amendments: 1]

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SECTION 11: **Monitoring, Recording, and Bookkeeping Requirements**

- 11.1 The results of sampling, analyses, surveys and monitoring, the results of calibration of equipment, reports on audits and inspections, all meetings and training courses required by this license and any subsequent reviews, investigations, and corrective actions, shall be documented. Unless otherwise specified in the NRC regulations all such documentation shall be maintained for a period of at least five (5) years.
- 11.2 The licensee shall implement the effluent and environmental monitoring program specified in Section 5.5 of the renewal application as revised with the following modifications or additions:
- A. Stack sampling shall include a determination of flow rate.
 - B. Surface water samples shall also be analyzed semiannually for total and dissolved U-nat, Ra-226, and Th-230, with the exception of the Westwater Creek, which shall be sampled annually for water sediments and analyzed as above. A sediment sample shall not be taken in place of a water sample unless a water sample was not available.
 - C. Groundwater sampling shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements in License Condition 11.3.
 - D. The licensee shall utilize lower limits of detection in accordance with Section 5 of Regulatory Guide 4.14 (Revision 1), for analysis of effluent and environmental samples.
 - E. The inspections performed semiannually of the critical orifice assembly committed to in the submittal dated March 15, 1986, shall be documented. The critical orifice assembly shall be calibrated at least every 2 years against a positive displacement Roots meter to obtain the required calibration curve.
- 11.3 The licensee shall implement a groundwater detection monitoring program to ensure compliance to 10 CFR Part 40, Appendix A. The detection monitoring program shall be in accordance with the report entitled, "Points of Compliance, White Mesa Uranium Mill," submitted by letter dated October 5, 1994, as modified by the following:
- A. The leak detection system for all ponds will be checked weekly. If liquid is present, it shall be analyzed for chloride, sulfate, selenium, and pH. The samples will be statistically analyzed to determine if significant linear trends exist, and the results will be submitted to NRC for review.
 - B. If a significant linear trend is indicated, the licensee will submit a proposed corrective action for review and approval to NRC. The corrective action shall include a discussion on delineation of the areal extent and concentration of hazardous constituents.
 - C. The licensee shall sample monitoring wells WMMW-5, -11, -12, -14, -15, and -17, on a quarterly basis. Samples shall be analyzed for chloride, potassium, nickel, and uranium, and the results of such sampling shall be included with the environmental monitoring reports submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 40.65.

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- 11.4 During extended periods of mill standby, eight-hour annual sampling for U-nat, Ra-226, Th-230 and Pb-210 may be eliminated if routine airborne sampling show levels below 10 percent of the appropriate 10 CFR Part 20 limits.

During periods of standby, sampling frequencies for area airborne uranium sampling within the mill may be reduced to quarterly, provided measured levels remain below 10 percent of the derived air concentration (DAC). If these levels exceed 10 percent of the DAC, the sampling frequency should follow the recommendations in Regulatory Guide 8.30.

- 11.5 Calibration of in-plant air and radiation monitoring equipment shall be performed as specified in the license renewal application, under Section 3.0 of the "Radiation Protection Procedures Manual," with the exception that in-plant air sampling equipment shall be calibrated at least quarterly and air sampling equipment checks shall be documented.

- 11.6 The licensee shall perform an annual ALARA audit of the radiation safety program in accordance with Regulatory Guide 8.31.

SECTION 12: Reporting Requirements

- 12.1 The licensee shall submit to NRC for review, by June 30, 1997, a detailed reclamation plan for the authorized tailings disposal area which includes the following:
- A. A post-operations interim stabilization plan which details methods to prevent wind and water erosion and recharge of the tailings area.
 - B. A plan to determine the best methodology to dewater and/or consolidate the tailings cells prior to placement of the final reclamation cover.
 - C. Plan and cross-sectional views of a final reclamation cover which details the location and elevation of tailings. The plan shall include details on cover thickness, physical characteristics of cover materials, proposed testing of cover materials (specifications and quality assurance), the estimated volumes of cover materials and their availability and location.
 - D. Detailed plans for placement of rock or vegetative cover on the final reclaimed tailings pile and mill site area.
 - E. A proposed implementation schedule for items A through D above which defines the sequence of events and expected time ranges.
 - F. An analysis to show that the proposed type and thickness of soil cover is adequate to provide attenuation of radon and is adequate to assure long-term stability, as well as an analysis and proposal on methodology and time required to restore ground water in conformance to regulatory requirements.
 - G. The licensee shall include a detailed cost analysis of each phase of the reclamation plan to include contractor costs, projected costs of inflation based upon the schedule

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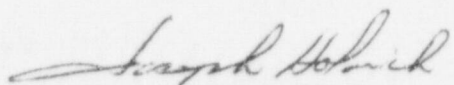
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proposed in item E, a proposed contingency cost, and the costs of long-term maintenance and monitoring.

- 12.2 The licensee shall submit a detailed decommissioning plan to the NRC at least twelve (12) months prior to planned final shutdown of mill operations.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Date June 13, 1997



Joseph J. Holonich, Chief
Uranium Recovery Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards