

April 1, 2021

Michael M. Gibson, Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Gary S. Arnold
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

G. Paul Bollwerk, III
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

In the Matter of
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.
(License Renewal for the In Situ Leach Facility, Crawford, Nebraska)
Docket No. 40-8943; ASLBP No. 08-867-02-OLA-BD01

Dear Administrative Judges,

In its Partial Initial Decision (LBP-16-7) issued May 26, 2016, the Board directed the NRC Staff to submit monthly status reports updating the Board and parties as to the status of the Staff's curative actions in response to the Board's resolution of Contention 1.

On March 5, 2021, the Staff sent letters to Mr. Salway and Mr. Brings of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and to the licensee, Crow Butte Resources, Inc. (CBR), containing a proposed schedule for completing the work to resolve Contention 1.¹ In its letter to the Tribe, the Staff requested input on proposed elements of a site survey at the Crow Butte site as well as the proposed project schedule. In its letter to CBR, the Staff requested input on CBR's ability to support the proposed schedule, as well as the types and level of financial support CBR would be willing to provide to support field work. The Staff asked both the Tribe and CBR to provide written responses by April 2, 2021.²

The Staff has continued its efforts to arrange a second meeting with its Tribal counterparts. In mid-February, the Staff provided potential meeting dates for mid-March, and sent a reminder a week later. On March 10, the Staff provided a list of proposed topics for discussion and again provided potential meeting dates for mid-March. Subsequently, counsel for the Tribe informed Staff counsel that he was awaiting further input from his client and suggested meeting the week of March 29. Because the Staff was unavailable that week, the Staff has requested input on the Tribe's availability to meet during the week of April 5, 2021.

¹ These letters, including the attached project schedules, can be found in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. (Packages) ML21061A263 and ML21061A272.

² On March 30, the Staff received CBR's response (ADAMS Accession No. ML21090A177).

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Finally, the Staff expects to receive the proposals for the contractor support work during the week of April 5.

The Staff will submit its next monthly status report by May 3, 2021, in accordance with the Board's mandate.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed (electronically) by

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Dated April 1, 2021.

cc: EIE Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of)	
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CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.)	Docket No. 40-8943
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(License Renewal for the In Situ Leach)	ASLBP No. 08-867-02-OLA-BD01
Facility, Crawford, Nebraska))	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "NRC STAFF'S LETTER TO THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD" in the above captioned proceeding have been served this 1st day of April, 2021, via the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange ("EIE"), which to the best of my knowledge resulted in transmittal of the foregoing to those on the EIE Service List for the above captioned proceeding.

Signed (electronically) by

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