

July 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 June 2, 2021, at the request of Mr. Reid, the Oglala Sioux Tribe's counsel, Crow Butte Resources, Inc. (CBR) hosted an additional site visit for Mr. Tim Mentz, Sr., and Mr. Tim Mentz, Jr., who were unable to attend the May 18 initial site visit.¹

On June 17, 2021, Mr. Reid provided the Tribe's response to the Staff's request for input on elements of a survey methodology.² Mr. Reid indicated that the document was prepared by Mr. Mentz, Sr., as a consultant to the Tribe. On Monday, June 21, Mr. Reid informed Staff counsel that he had sent the Tribe's response to counsel for CBR on June 18.

As discussed at the June 24 status conference, in reviewing the Tribe's June 17 response the Staff has identified a number of questions and items needing clarification. On June 23, the Staff emailed Mr. Brings, Mr. Salway, and Mr. Reid requesting a meeting with them and Mr. Mentz during the week of June 28 or the week of July 5 to discuss the Staff's questions and ensure

¹ Mr. Mentz, Sr., and Mr. Mentz, Jr., are associated with Mokache Wowapi, a cultural resources management firm. Mr. Thomas Brings, the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, accompanied them during the June 2 site visit. The Staff's trip report covering the May 18 site visit, which also briefly describes the subsequent site visit on June 2, is publicly available in ADAMS at ML21166A383.

² The Staff's May 25 letter requesting the Tribe's input is publicly available in ADAMS at ML21144A326.

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that the Staff has a clear understanding of the Tribe's input. A meeting has been scheduled for July 8, 2021.³

As indicated during the June 24 status conference, the Staff hopes to complete a draft methodology and provide it to the Tribe and CBR by mid- to late July.

The Staff will submit its next monthly status report by August 1, 2021, in accordance with the Board's mandate.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed (electronically) by

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Dated July 1, 2021.

cc: EIE Service List

³ The Staff has provided the Tribe with a list of clarification questions which the Staff intends to ask during the meeting. This list should be publicly available in ADAMS within the next few days (ML21182A225).

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 July, 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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