

February 10, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

FROM: Melanie Wong, Project Manager (Original Signed By)
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management, NMSS

SUBJECT: EXCURSION STATUS OF MONITOR WELL 6MW21 AT IRIGARAY
AND CHRISTENSEN RANCH *IN SITU* LEACH URANIUM PROJECT

On October 28, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operations Center was notified of the excursion status of monitor well 6WM21 at COGEMA Mining Inc. (COGEMA) Irigaray and Christensen Ranch *In Situ* (ISL) Uranium Project and a written notification was submitted to the NRC Uranium Recovery and Low-Level Waste Branch on October 28, 1999, in accordance with License Condition 12.2.

6MW21 is a perimeter ore zone monitor well located approximately 300 feet south of the Mine Unit 6 boundary at the Christensen Mine. A routine biweekly water sample collected on October 26, 1999, from this monitor well, indicated that all three excursion parameters, (i.e., chloride, conductivity and alkalinity) had exceeded their upper control limits (UCLs). For the confirmation sample collected on October 28, 1999, all three parameters continued to exceed their UCLs and, thus, 6MW21 sampling frequency was increased to weekly.

Corrective action consisted of over-pumping in the wellfield nearest to 6MW21. Based on COGEMA's letter dated December 7, 1999, the corrective action was successful in lowering all three excursion parameters. An excursion status is considered contained when not more than one UCL is exceeded for three consecutively weekly samples. Chloride and conductivity levels for the samples taken on November 22, 1999, November 29, 1999, and December 6, 1999, were below their UCLs. The monitor well was then removed from excursion status.

Based on the corrective action and favorable results, this event is now closed.

Docket No.: 40-8502
License No.: SUA-1341

CONTACT: Melanie Wong, NMSS/DWM
(301) 415-6262

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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