

March 1, 2000

Mr. Michael L. Griffin
Manager of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs
Crow Butte Resources, Inc.
86 Crow Butte Road
Post Office Box 169
Crawford, NE 69339-0169

SUBJECT: MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TESTING OF WELLS IN MINE UNIT 1 AT THE
CROW BUTTE FACILITY, LICENSE NO. SUA-1534

Dear Mr. Griffin:

This letter is in follow up to our recent phone calls about stopping mechanical integrity testing in Mine Unit 1. License Condition 10.2 requires that:

“Mechanical integrity tests shall be performed on each injection and production well before the wells are utilized and on wells that have been serviced with equipment or procedures that could damage the well casing. Additionally, each well shall be retested at least once each five (5) years it is in use.”

The staff agrees that there is not a need to conduct the 5-year retest in Mine Unit 1, because uranium extraction and ground-water restoration activities have ceased in Mine Unit 1. However, should ground-water restoration activities resume in Mine Unit 1, this decision will need to be revisited.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact the NRC Project Manager, Mr. William Ford, at (301) 415-6630.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Gillen for

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Uranium Recovery and
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8934
License No. SUA-1534
Amendment No. 6

cc: Stephen P. Collings, CBR, Denver
Dave Meisback, Nebraska, UIC, DEQ
Dave Carlson Nebraska, UIC, DEQ
Cheryl K. Rogers, Nebraska, RMP, PHA

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