

January 10, 2012

Mr. Thomas Gieck, Remediation Leader
Umetco Minerals Corporation
P.O. Box 1029
Grand Junction, CO 81502

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW OF
UMETCO MINERALS CORPORATION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT
(LICENSE NO.: SUA-648)

Dear Mr. Gieck:

In a letter dated September 30, 2011, Umetco Minerals Corporation submitted the annual report for the Gas Hills facility in Natrona and Fremont counties, Wyoming (Agencywide Document Access and Management System Accession No. ML11273A168). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed our review of the report and has the following comments:

1. The report states that Umetco is evaluating the high sulfate and chloride levels in model validation Well MW28. Please provide NRC with the results of this evaluation, when it has been completed. Note that Section 4.3 of Appendix M of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan for the Gas Hills site includes commitments to perform, as necessary, additional monitoring and reassessment of the model for the site.
2. Figure 7 provides the trending data for selenium in the Western Flow Regime Point-of-Compliance (POC) wells. It appears that the selenium in MW 1 has shown overall increasing trends in selenium concentrations since 2003. While no action is necessary at this time, this well will need to be monitored carefully and may need to be evaluated in the future.
3. Table 5.5 includes the target concentrations for chloride and sulfate. It appears that the target chloride concentration cited for MW82 is actually the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Class I standard instead of the target value in Figure 37. This may be corrected in future submittals.
4. Figure 14 indicates an increasing trend in the concentrations of Radium-226 and Radium-228 in POC wells GW7 and GW8. While no action is necessary at this time, these wells will need to be monitored carefully in the future.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

T. Gieck

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If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff comments, please contact me at 301-415-6749 or by email at Dominick.Orlando@nrc.gov

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dominick A. Orlando, Senior Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

License: SUA-648
Docket No.: 040-0299

cc: Umetco Dist list

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