



January 16, 2009

Mr. Lowell Spackman, District 1 Supervisor  
Land Quality Division  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Herschler Building  
122 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**CAMECO RESOURCES**  
**Smith Ranch-Highland**  
**Operation**

**Mall:**  
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RE: Permit to Mine No. 633, Release of Solutions Report

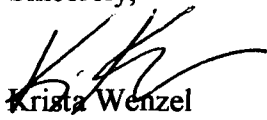
Dear Mr. Spackman:

As reported to Ms. Pam Rothwell of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division (WDEQ/LQD), Mr. Doug Mandeville, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and Joe Hunter WDEQ, Water Quality Division (WDEQ/WQD), by voice mail, January 9, 2009 Power Resources, Inc. d/b/a Cameco Resources (CR) had a release of production solutions at the Smith Ranch-Highland Uranium Project in Converse County, Wyoming. Voice contact with Pam Rothwell and Doug Mandeville was made on January 12, 2009. Approximately 2,169 gallons were released from Mine Unit 15, well 15P-122. Approximately 2,000 gallons was recovered and disposed of via deep disposal well. A solution sample was collected upon discovery of the release and analysis showed 11 ppm  $U_3O_8$ . Soil samples have been collected for background, at the release point and at the end point of the spill. A gamma survey of the release area has been conducted using a MicroR meter and recorded on the spill map in  $\mu R/hr$ . Well 15P-122 is located SESW of Section 10, T.35N., R.74W, Converse County, Wyoming. A field map is included in this package.

The leak was detected at approximately 15:00 pm on January 9, 2009 by a Wellfield Operator. A 1 1/2" transition at well 15P-122 in Mine Unit 15 was discovered leaking from rusted threads. The solution did enter a drainage and proceeded to the edge of a roughly 30-foot diameter runoff pond. The solution pooled next to the pond and breached a small berm separating the pooled solutions and the pond. The solutions were recovered from the pooled area with a vacuum truck and the runoff pond backflowed into the pooled area and was also recovered. Soil samples were collected at representative areas at 0-6" for analysis with an accredited outside laboratory and a gamma survey will be performed across the spill area. The fluid is not considered hazardous material under RCRA and is not reportable under SARA.

CR's Spill Committee meets monthly and after each spill to discuss preventive measures to minimize the potential of releases from Smith Ranch-Highland Operations, and to assess and make recommendations to potentially mitigate re-occurrences. All transitions of this type will be visually inspected and replaced as needed. Please call me at (307) 358-6541 ext. 62 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



**Krista Wenzel**  
Manager, Environment, Health and Safety

Attachment: Map

cc: Doug Mandeville – NRC Project Manager (2-copies) T. Cannon  
M. Bryson File SR 4.3.3.1 File SR 4.6.4.4  
S. Bakken D. Kolkman B. Johnson  
S. Miller Joe Hunter – Water Quality Division

