



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

Div of Waste Management
and Radiation Control

SEP 01 2017

August 25, 2017

DRC-2017-006592

EA-16-156

Mr. Brent Berg, President
Cameco Resources
Power Resources, Inc.
550 N. Poplar Street
Casper, WY 82601

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER CLOSURE - POWER RESOURCES, INC.

Dear Mr. Berg:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) decision to close the Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) issued to Power Resources, Inc. (PRI) on August 30, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession ML16238A359).

As you know, the NRC issued the CAL to PRI based on the occurrence of repetitive transportation incidents, which included failures to accurately determine the radioactive material content for barium sulfate sludge shipments and describe the physical and chemical form of the material on shipping papers, and failures to effectively package barium sulfate sludge in a manner that would ensure the radioactive contents would not leak from the container while under routine transport conditions. The CAL documented several actions you agreed to perform, which included performing a root-cause analysis to identify specific causes for the inadequate packaging and transportation of barium sulfate sludge, assessing the radioactive material present in the barium sulfate sludge shipments, developing a corrective action plan and a corresponding schedule to restore compliance and prevent recurrence, and providing the NRC with a copy of the independent review performed of your transportation program.

The NRC reviewed your initial response to the CAL dated October 24, 2016 (ADAMS Accession ML16357A774), and your addendum to the CAL response dated July 24, 2017 (ADAMS Accession ML17216A343). The NRC conducted a transportation-specific inspection on November 15-17, 2016, which was documented in NRC Inspection Report 040-08964/2016-003, dated April 3, 2017 (ADAMS Accession ML17079A564). In addition, the NRC performed an in-office review of your corrective actions associated with the CAL and documented this review in a letter to you dated June 29, 2017 (ADAMS Accession ML17151B102).

As part of our assessment, the NRC reviewed the root-cause analysis performed by your staff and your independent expert's review of PRI's transportation program, both provided in response to the CAL, and found them to be adequate in addressing methods to eliminate excess liquid in the barium sulfate sludge and pond sediment shipments. During the NRC transportation-specific inspection conducted in November 2016, the NRC verified that your analytical methodology and

calculational models used to determine the radioactive material content in the barium sulfate sludge had been revised to adequately calculate the radioactive material content.

Power Resources, Inc.'s recent changes to its transportation program associated with the package selection process, waste classification, and its pre-transportation packaging process have been reviewed and determined to be adequate, as documented by the revised procedures to ensure appropriate waste classification, packaging, and labeling. The NRC has determined that PRI's corrective action plan, schedule to restore compliance, and changes made to prevent recurrence were adequate by establishing a written program along with appropriate package testing to ensure the safe transport of barium sulfate sludge and pond sediment to disposal facilities.

In summary, based on our independent assessment of your corrective actions, the NRC has determined that PRI has satisfied the actions described in the CAL. Therefore, the NRC considers the CAL closed. As such, PRI, may resume shipments of barium sulfate sludge material in accordance with its license. The NRC will continue to assess the effectiveness of these corrective actions during future inspections.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Ray L. Kellar, Chief, Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch at 817-200-1191.

Sincerely,



Scott A. Morris
Deputy Regional Administrator

Docket: 040-08964
License: SUA-1548

cc:

D. Pavlick, Cameco Resources

S. Anderson, Director,
Utah Department of Environmental Quality

S. Ramsey, Manager
Wyoming Department of Homeland Security

R. Schierman, Manager
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality