

Dated: August 18, 1995.

Timothy M. Sullivan,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration.*

[FR Doc. 95-21097 Filed 8-24-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

[Notice (95-075)]

Notice of Prospective Patent License

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of Prospective Patent License.

SUMMARY: NASA hereby gives notice that Kinetic Concepts, Inc. of 8023 Vantage Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78230-4726, has applied for an exclusive license to practice the invention described and claimed in: U.S. Patent Application 08/297,474 entitled "NON-INVASIVE METHOD FOR MEASURING AND MONITORING INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE AND PRESSURE VOLUME INDEX," which was filed on May 23, 1995, by the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Written objections to the prospective grant of a license to Kinetic Concepts, Inc. should be sent to Ms. Kimberly A. Chasteen, Patent Attorney, NASA Langley Research Center.

DATES: Responses to this Notice must be received by October 24, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kimberly A. Chasteen, NASA Langley Research Center, Mail Code 212, Hampton, VA 23681-0001; (804) 864-3227.

Dated: August 17, 1995.

Edward A. Frankle,

General Counsel.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8857]

Power Resources, Inc.

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final finding of no significant impact notice of opportunity for hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposes to renew Source Materials License No. SUA-1511. This license authorizes Power

Resources, Inc. (PRI) to receive, acquire, possess, and transfer uranium at its Highland Uranium Project approximately 24 miles northeast of the town of Glenrock, in Converse County, Wyoming. PRI's Highland Uranium Project is an In-Situ Leach (ISL) uranium mine and processing facility. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was performed by NRC staff in support of PRI's license renewal request. The conclusion of the Environmental Assessment is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed license renewal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael C. Layton, High-Level Waste and Uranium Recovery Projects Branch, Mail Stop TWFN 7-99, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone 301/415-6676.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The ISL mining method involves: (1) Injecting a leaching solution (lixiviant), comprised of native groundwater fortified with gaseous carbon dioxide and oxygen, into a uranium-bearing ore body through injection wells; (2) chemically mobilizing the uranium through oxidation and complexing it with a carbonate ion in solution; and (3) extracting the uranium-bearing solution through a pattern of pumping wells. Uranium is then separated from the leach solution by conventional ion exchange methods in a processing facility. The depleted solution is recharged with carbon dioxide and oxygen and is then returned to the mining zone for additional uranium recovery. This cycle continues until the ore zone is depleted or the uranium is no longer economically feasible to recover.

The recovered uranium solution is further processed by using ammonia or hydrogen peroxide to precipitate the uranium into a slurry. The resulting slurry is further thickened by gravity settling, then washed and dewatered in a filter press to about 50 percent solids. The filter press solids (cake) are then dried in a natural gas dryer, which operates at about 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, producing uranium oxide commonly called "yellowcake". The dried yellowcake is packaged in 55-gallon steel drums for storage and shipment to a fuel processing facility.

In the injection and extraction process, well patterns typically include four injection wells at the corners of a 50- to 100-foot square with one

pumping (production) well centrally located. There are currently six wellfields installed at the PRI Highland site, designated as wellfields A through F. The A and B wellfields were constructed in 1987 and are now under restoration. The C wellfield was installed in 1989 and is still in production. The D wellfield was installed during 1990-1991 and started production in 1991. The E wellfield was built during 1991-1992 and started production in 1992. The F wellfield was approved by the NRC staff in 1994.

Environmental Assessment

The EA discusses the environmental aspects of the PRI renewal request. Safety aspects for the continued operation of the Highland Uranium Project are discussed in a Safety Evaluation Report (SER). The license renewal would authorize PRI to continue operating the facility, such that the annual throughput will not exceed an average flow rate of 7500 gallons per minute (gpm), exclusive of the flow involved in restoring the depleted wellfields. Yellowcake production will not exceed 1.897 million pounds annually. To assure that the process emissions associated with this project are accurate, the licensee will be prohibited by license condition from exceeding the 7500 gpm process rate. All license conditions and commitments presented in the licensee's Operations and Reclamation Plan are subject to NRC inspection. Violation of the license may result in enforcement action.

An impact appraisal for the license renewal was performed by the NRC, Division of Waste Management, and documented in the EA. The NRC staff performed the appraisal of environmental considerations associated with continuation of the ISL operation in accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 51, Licensing and Regulatory Policy Procedures for Environmental Protection.

In conducting this appraisal, the NRC staff considered the following: (1) environmental, operational, and restoration information submitted by PRI for previous and ongoing work at the Highland Uranium Project, (2) additional information submitted in the licensee's application, and (3) information derived from professional papers, journals and text books, NRC Regulations and Regulatory Guides, as well as other Federal, State and local agencies.

Conclusions

The NRC staff has reexamined actual and potential environmental impacts