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TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

March 8, 2001

Ms. Nancy Dorsey
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue 6WSU
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Second Reply to NOD Concerning Aquifer Exemption at Alta Mesa Mine

Dear Ms. Dorsey:

In response to your questions concerning the request for an aquifer exemption for the Alta Mesa site, the following information is submitted for your review and evaluation. Included with this letter are:

Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report,

Volume 2 of Mesteña Uranium's dated April 1, 1999, and

Appendices 1, 2, and 3 of Mesteña Uranium's dated April 1, 1999.

Criteria provided in 40 CFR §146.4 for the aquifer the exemption.

The aquifer qualifies for exemption under:

40 CFR §146.4 (a): It does not currently serve as a source of drinking water; and

40 CFR §146.4 (b) (1): It cannot now and will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because it is mineral, hydrocarbon or geothermal energy producing, or can be demonstrated by a permit applicant as part of a permit application for a Class II or III operation to contain minerals or hydrocarbons that considering their quantity and location are expected to be commercially producible. The Alta Mesa application for a Class III permit demonstrated that minerals (uranium) can be commercially produced from the aquifer.

The requested exemption contains is 1840 acres in the Rafael G. Salinas Survey, A-480 in Brooks County west of Ranch to Market Road 430, approximately 13 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 281 and Ranch to Market Road 755. The part of the aquifer to be exempted is Goliad "B" and "C" correlative to the zone shown on the type log in attachment 7 and occurring between approximately +10 and -300 feet relative to MSL.

Updated well survey.

Attachment 2 of Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report is a tabulation of water well data. There are four water wells in the AOR. The Camp well is the only domestic water well and is no longer used as it was not cased and the drill hole has collapsed.

Attachment 3 of Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report is a tabulation of uranium wells.

Attachment 4 of Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report is a tabulation of oil and gas wells.

AOR Map.

Attachments 1 and 5 of Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report are updated maps of the AOR. Oil and gas wells are on a separate map because of scale restrictions as explained on page 2 of the report.

Cross-sections.

Attachment 8 of Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report contains revised copies of cross-sections A-A' through K-K' with well names and scales for SP and resistivity have been added.

Attachment 9 of Mesteña Uranium's February 2, 2001 report contains revised copies of regional cross-sections 1-1' and 2-2' as explained on page 4 of the report.

Wireline well logs.

All available logs have been supplied. Porosity logs were not available.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (512)239-1030. If responding by mail please send to Mail Code MC-130.

Sincerely,

John Santos, Geologist
UIC Permits Team
Industrial and Hazardous Waste Permits Section
Waste Permits Division

JJS/lg

Enclosures