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NRC EXTENDS LICENSE TERM
FOR SOME MILL LICENSEES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is extending to ten years from five the license term for some uranium and thorium mill licensees.

The extension will reduce the administrative burden associated with the license renewal process for both NRC and licensee staffs. It also is expected to reduce licensee fees, bring mill license terms into line with other major material licenses, and support NRC's goal of streamlining the licensing process.

Mills would qualify for license extension if they have performed well, had successful inspections with only limited violations, and had no serious operational problems over the previous two years. Currently the following nine licensees could potentially qualify (the facilities marked with an asterisk are currently on stand-by and require NRC authorization to restart):

- Quivera Ambrosia Lake, Grants, New Mexico;
- Crow Butte Resources, Crawford, Nebraska;
- Power Resources, Inc. Highlands, South Powder River, Wyoming;
- COGEMA Irigaray/Christensen Ranch, North Powder River, Wyoming;
- Energy Fuels Nuclear White Mesa, Blanding, Utah;
- *Kennecott Sweetwater, Red Desert, Wyoming;
- *Plateau Resources, Inc. Shootaring Canyon, Ticaboo, Utah;
- *Pathfinder North Butte, Pumpkin Butte, Wyoming;
- *Rio Algom Smith Ranch, South Powder River, Wyoming.

Licenses will not be extended for 17 other NRC-licensed uranium mills that are currently undergoing reclamation, because their possession-only licenses do not have a specific expiration date.

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