

tion targets were set to meet commitments under existing term contracts to deliver uranium sourced at the site. The company has contracted to purchase another 900,000 lb  $U_3O_8$  over the next three years to meet additional nonspecific delivery commitments, taking advantage of the current low uranium spot price. Peninsula reports that its current contracted sales of 7.7 million lb  $U_3O_8$  through 2030 at an average delivery price of \$54/lb will limit its exposure to the spot market during periods of low prices.

■ Cameco Corporation announced on June 19 that it has signed a collaboration agreement with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB), extending a working relationship of more than 30 years. According to Cameco, the agreement confirms the LLRIB's support for Cameco's mining operations in northern Saskatchewan and the parties' commitment to protecting the environment, and ensures that the LLRIB will continue to benefit from employment and business opportunities and industry investment in the community.

Highlights of the agreement include employment opportunities through dedicated education funding, training, and recruitment; life-of-mine contracts for the LLRIB businesses Northern Resource Trucking and Athabasca Catering, and direct source contracting opportunities

for other LLRIB businesses; requirements for specific engagement activities to keep the LLRIB informed about Cameco's existing operations and measures to protect the environment; and annual production-based payments that will be made to a community trust to be used for community projects and infrastructure.

The agreement is to be in effect until the closure of the last of Cameco's existing operations in northern Saskatchewan, which include Key Lake, McArthur River, Cigar Lake, and Rabbit Lake.

## REGULATION

### Notice of violation issued for transport container leak

A June 29 letter from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission addressed to the president of Cameco Resources, Brett Berg, included a notice of violation and a report on an inspection conducted November 15–17, 2016, at the Smith Ranch *in situ* uranium recovery facility in Converse County, Wyo.

The purpose of the inspection was to review Cameco Resources' transportation program and the company's response to a March 2016 incident involving a leaking intermodal container of barium sulfate

sludge shipped from Smith Ranch, which is owned by Cameco subsidiary Power Resources, to Energy Fuel Resources' White Mesa Mill in Utah (NN, Oct. 2016, p. 98). Corrective actions agreed to by Cameco in October 2016 are still being implemented.

On May 4, the NRC staff met with officials from Cameco Resources to discuss nine preliminary inspection findings (NN, June 2017, p. 74). Based on the information provided at that meeting and the results of the inspection, the NRC has determined that nine violations of regulatory requirements did in fact occur. The first five violations were characterized collectively as a Severity Level III problem because they resulted from the same root cause: failure to provide specific direction to ensure that the analytical laboratory used the appropriate method to detect and quantify Ra-226 in the sludge samples. "This resulted in the incorrect classification and [the] use of inappropriate shipping containers for the pond settlement and barium sulfate sludge waste," the notice stated.

Each of the remaining four violations was categorized at Severity Level IV. The violations involved the failure (1) to ensure by examination or appropriate tests that packages were appropriate for the contents being shipped and that closure

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