

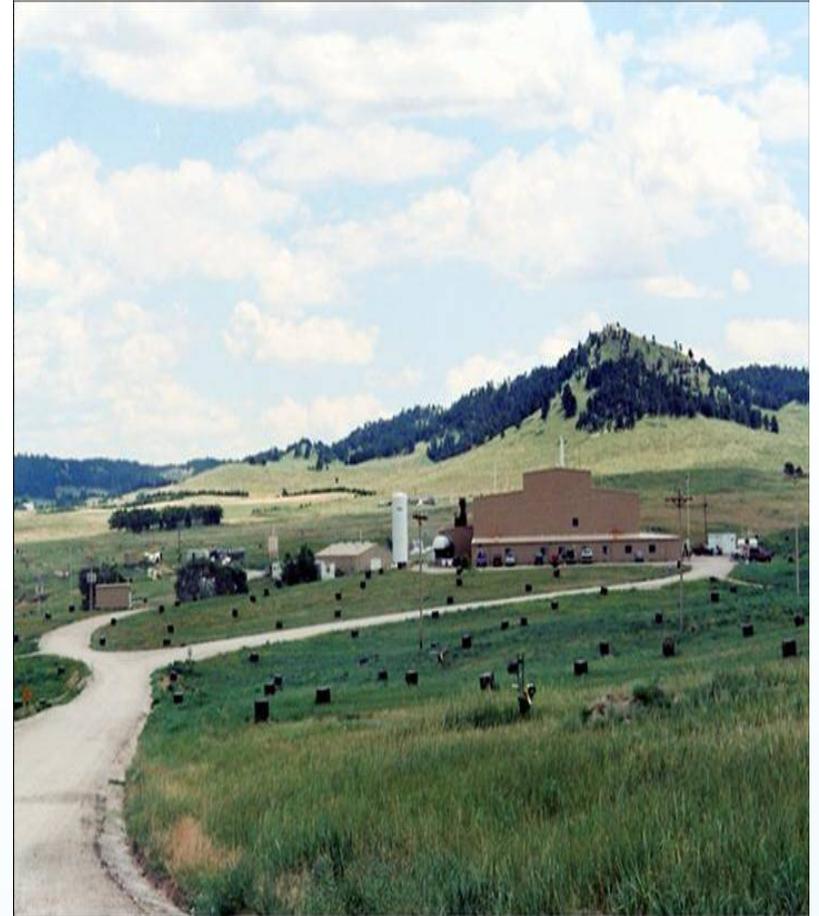
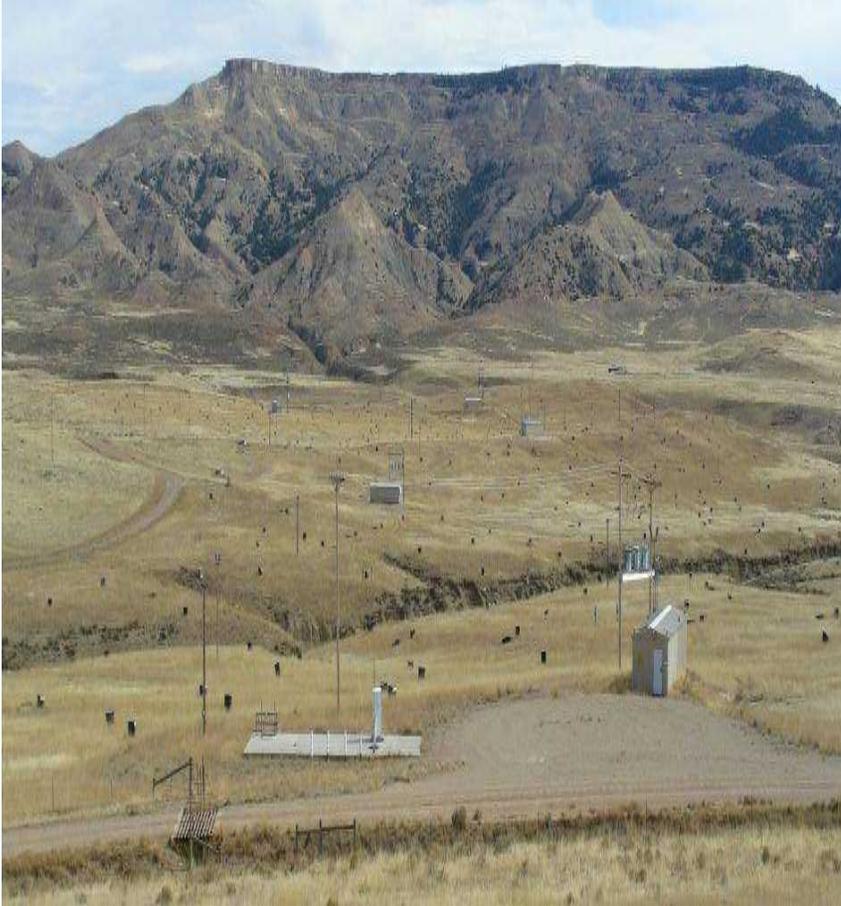
# The Uranium Recovery Industry

National Mining Association  
December 11, 2008

# Generic Environmental Impact Statement

- ▶ NMA strongly supports GEIS
  - Necessary to handle anticipated applications while assuring adequate protection of health, safety and the environment
- ▶ NMA submitted extensive comments
  - Generic Environmental Report in scoping process
  - Comments on the Draft GEIS
- ▶ NMA agrees with NRC that the majority of impacts associated with ISR are “small”
- ▶ GEIS & Part 51 assure site-specific environmental analyses

# Typical Wellfields



# Potential Threats to Usefulness of GEIS

- Benefits of GEIS should not be undermined
  - NRC must adhere to deadline to finalize
  - NRC should authorize certain preconstruction activities
  - NRC, BLM and state agencies should coordinate required environmental assessments
  - NRC must continue use of performance based licensing per commission policy

# NRC Rulemaking for Groundwater Protection at ISR Facilities

- ▶ Issue of longstanding importance to the industry
- ▶ Agree with EPA that currently there are no generally applicable UMTRCA standards
- ▶ Now “tailored” rulemaking – to make EPA 40 CFR part 192 standards applicable “as a matter of law” to ISR restoration, including giving the licensee the legal right to apply for an ACL (with state prior class of use a factor in an ACL determination)

# Demand for Uranium

- ▶ Spot market price up 25% over the past 5 weeks
- ▶ Strong demand (Since 1990 consumption > production)
- ▶ 2008 Forecast downgraded from 125 million pounds to 115 million pounds
- ▶ 440 Nuclear Reactors worldwide
- ▶ 35 new plants currently under construction
  - ▶ 20 potential new plants in the US

# Importance of Domestic Uranium

- ▶ Domestic production provides energy security -- US current reliant on foreign sources for 85-90%
- ▶ At current prices, DOE forecasts US has almost 900 million pounds of uranium reserves
- ▶ Creation of jobs, infrastructure and other economic benefits
  - Illustrated by the recent New Mexico State University study, “Economic Impact of Uranium Mining and Milling Operations in the State of New Mexico”