



# **Uranium Recovery Program Commission Briefing**

**Mike Weber**  
**Deputy Executive Director Materials,  
Waste, Research, State, Tribal and  
Compliance Programs**  
**February 20, 2013**

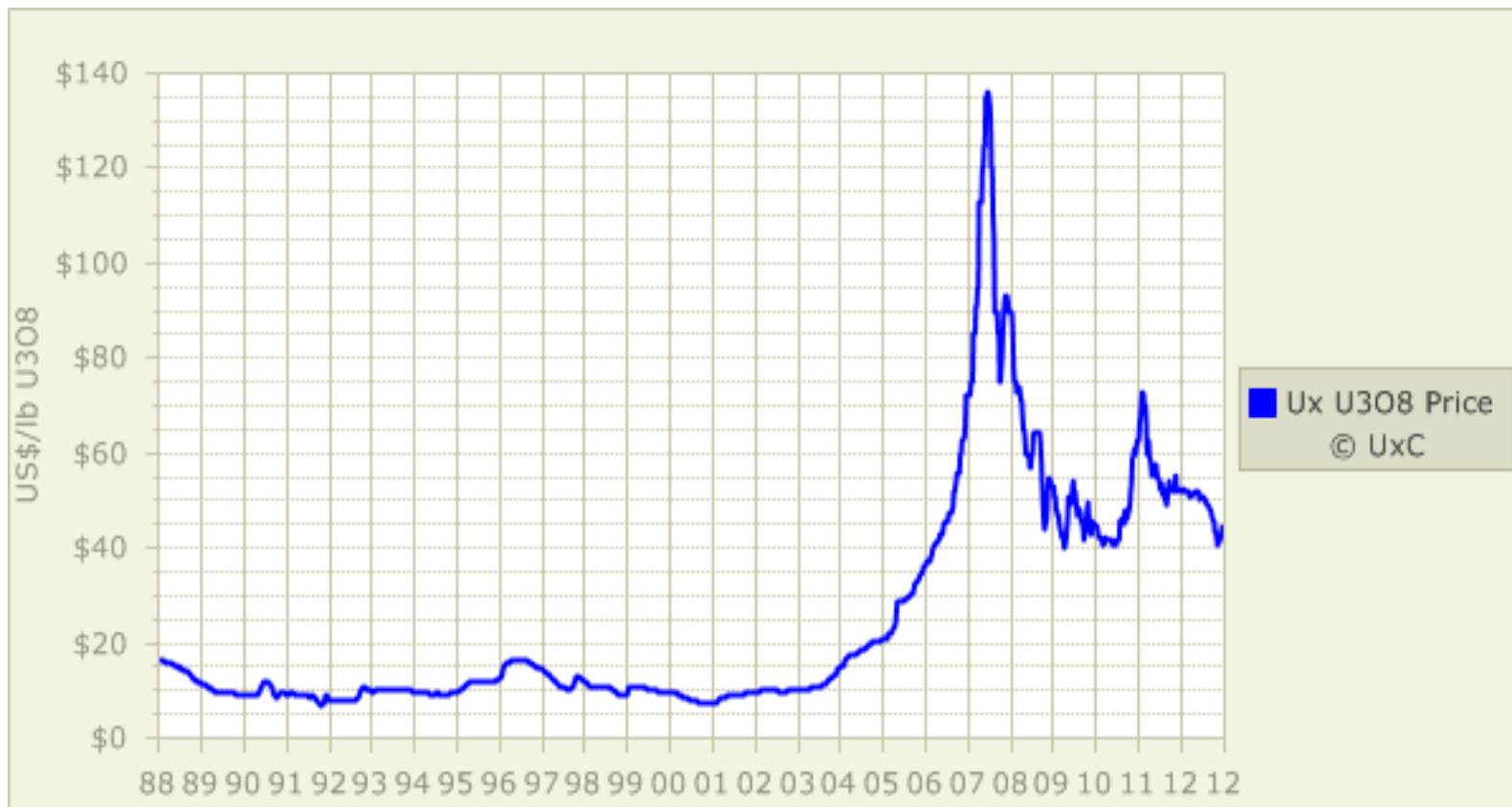
# **Overview of Uranium Recovery**

**Mark A. Satorius, Director  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management  
Programs**

# **Discussion Topics**

- **Overview of Uranium Recovery**
- **Uranium Recovery Licensing**
- **Safety Reviews**
- **Environmental Reviews**
- **Conclusion**

# Uranium Spot Price



Source: The Ux Consulting Company, LLC, <http://www.uxc.com>

# **Uranium Recovery Licensing**

**Andrew Persinko, Deputy Director  
Division of Waste Management and Environmental  
Protection/FSME**

# **Status of Licensing Actions**

- **Accomplishments**
  - **Issued 3 new licenses for in-situ recovery**
- **Current Activities**
  - **Reviewing 9 new licensing actions**
  - **Expect to complete safety and environmental reviews for 4 sites in fiscal year 2013**
- **Future Activities**
  - **Workload increasing**
  - **Expect 2-3 hearings this fiscal year**

# **Program Enhancements**

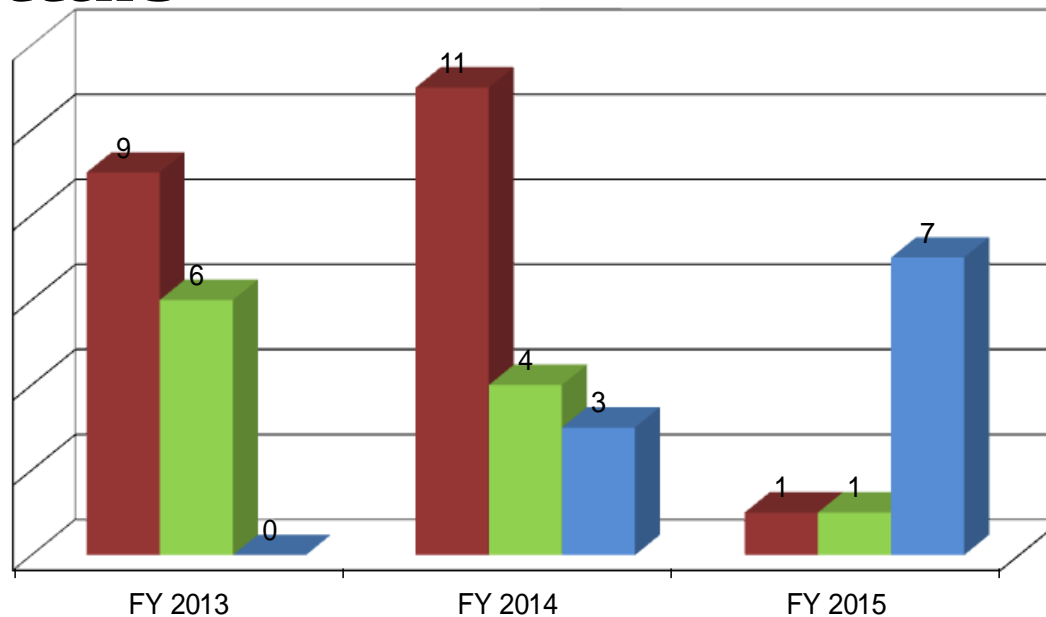
- **Pre-application reviews**
- **Timeliness of licensing reviews**
- **Generic Environmental Impact Statement**
- **Improved National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultations**

# **Priorities and Budget**

- **Priorities- Safety**
  - **Licensed sites, then new licensing, then guidance**
  - **Perform safety and environmental reviews in parallel**
  - **New licensing reviews performed in order of acceptance**
- **Licensed sites and new licensing actions increasing**



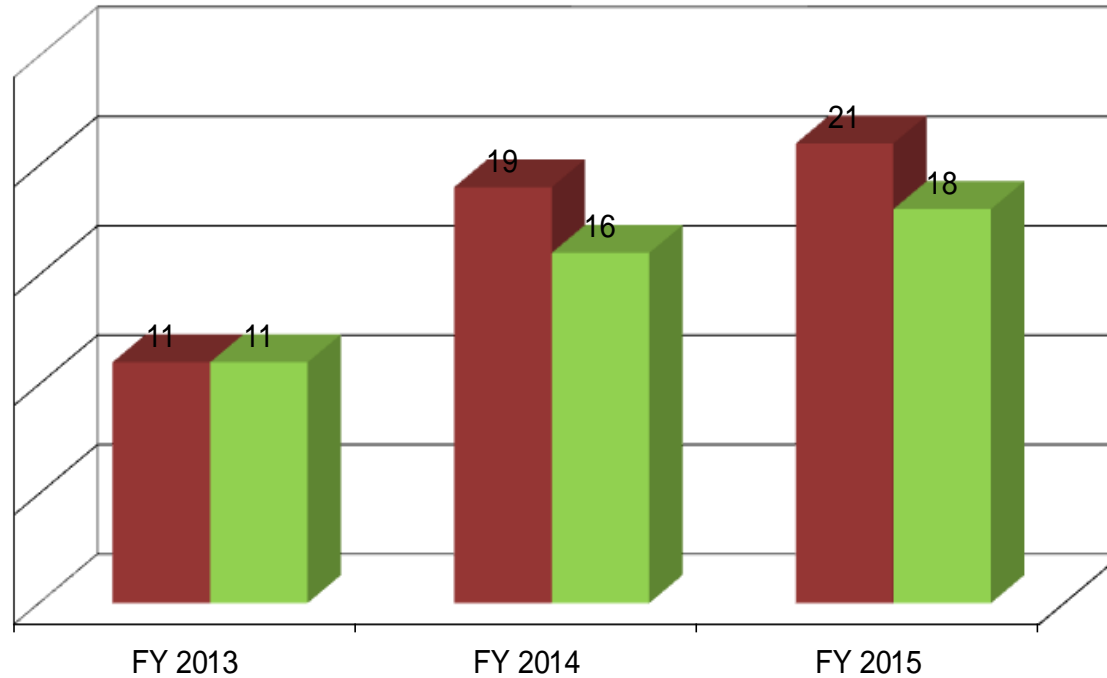
# Projections for Future Application Submittals



- Letters of Intent
- Number of Submittals Staff Expects Based on 40% Letter of Intent Accuracy Rate
- Number of Applicant Delayed Submittals From Previous FY

FY 13 letter of intent accuracy rate is higher than 40% to reflect higher certainty in submittals for this FY.  
FY 15 submittal is a required license renewal document.  
Staff anticipates additional letters of intent for FY 15 in the future.

# Projections for Future Workload Scenarios



■ Applications in House if 60% are 6 Months Late

■ Applications in House if 60% are 1 Year Late

Applications in House includes items being worked on and anticipated letters of intent.

# **Licensing Outreach**

- **Over 60 public meetings**
- **Tribal Government to Government meetings**
- **Workshops on both safety and environmental reviews to discuss lessons learned**

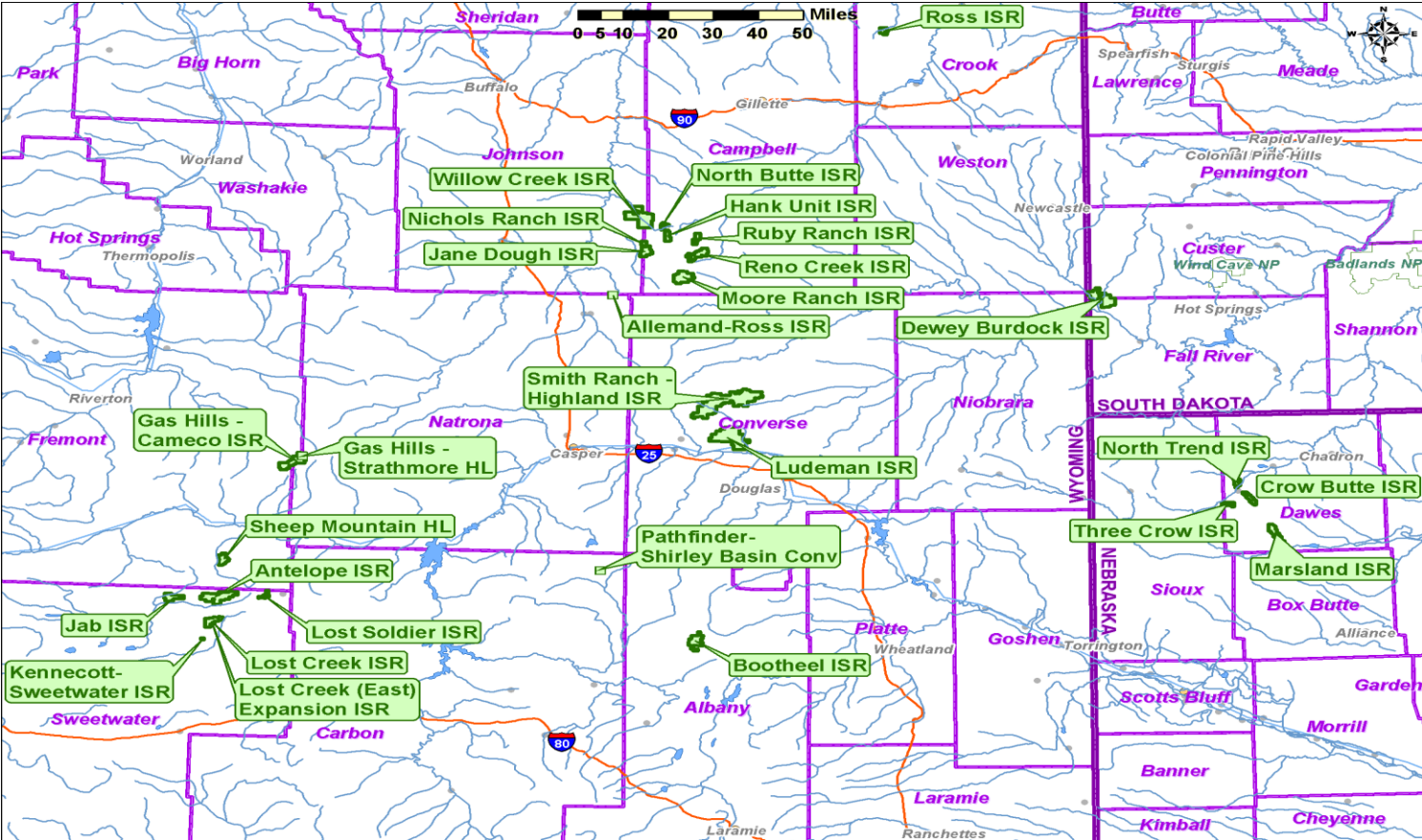
# **Safety Reviews**

**William von Till, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Waste Management and Environmental  
Protection/FSME**

# Typical In-Situ Recovery Wellfield Located in Wyoming



# Location of Uranium Sites



# Major Licensing Actions

<b>License Renewals</b>	<b>Expansions</b>	<b>New Facilities</b>
<b>Cameco – Crow Butte Resources<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Cameco – Crow Butte North Trend</b>	<b>Powertech – Dewey Burdock<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Uranium One – Willow Creek</b>	<b>Uranium One – Ludeman<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Strata – Ross</b>
<b>Cameco – Smith Ranch</b>	<b>Cameco – Crow Butte Marsland</b>	
	<b>Lost Creek – Dryer Expansion</b>	

**Notes:**

**1 – issued final safety evaluation report**

**2 – issued request for additional information**

**3 – issued draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

# Ongoing Licensing Actions

## **New Additional Operating Sites since 2010**

- **Willow Creek**
- **Lost Creek - construction**
- **Hank and Nichols Ranch - construction**

## **Operating Site Licensing Actions**

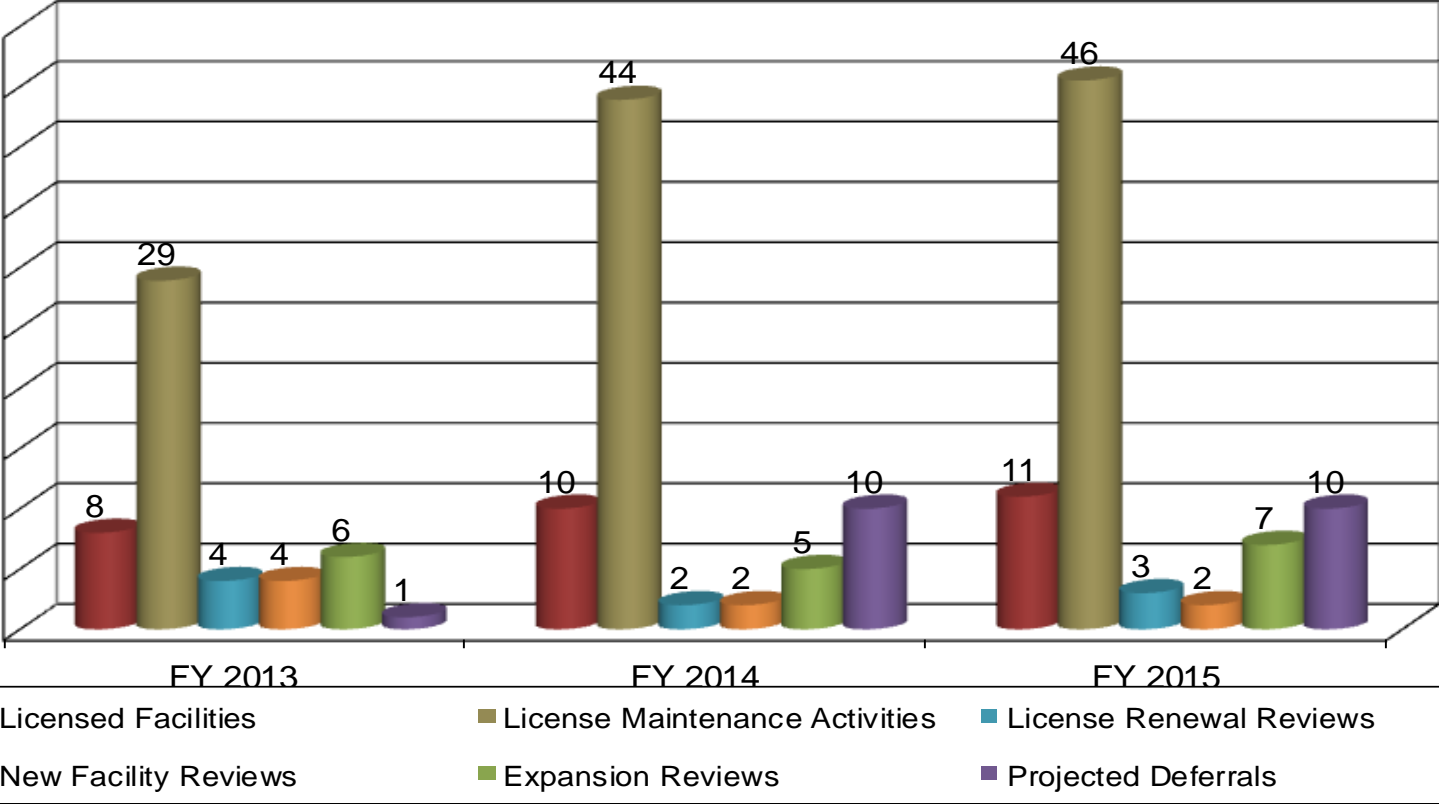
- **License renewals**
- **Expansions**
- **Other actions**

## **Oversight and Inspection**

- **Priority**
- **Increasing**



# Projections for Future Workload



This chart assumes a 2.5 year review period for renewal, new facility, and expansion reviews. License maintenance activities are highly variable in scope and duration.

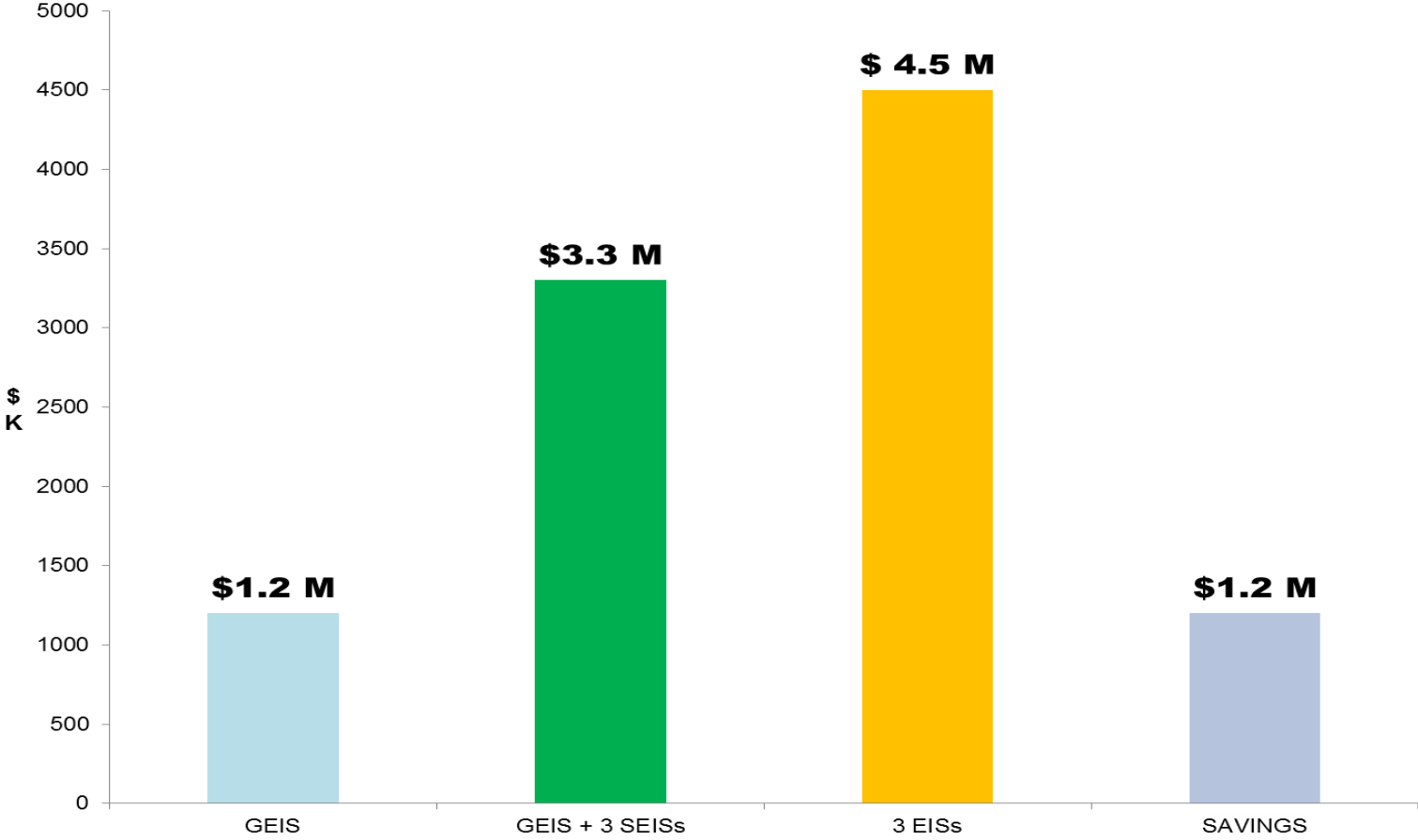
# **Environmental Reviews**

**Kevin Hsueh, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Division of Waste Management and Environmental  
Protection/FSME**

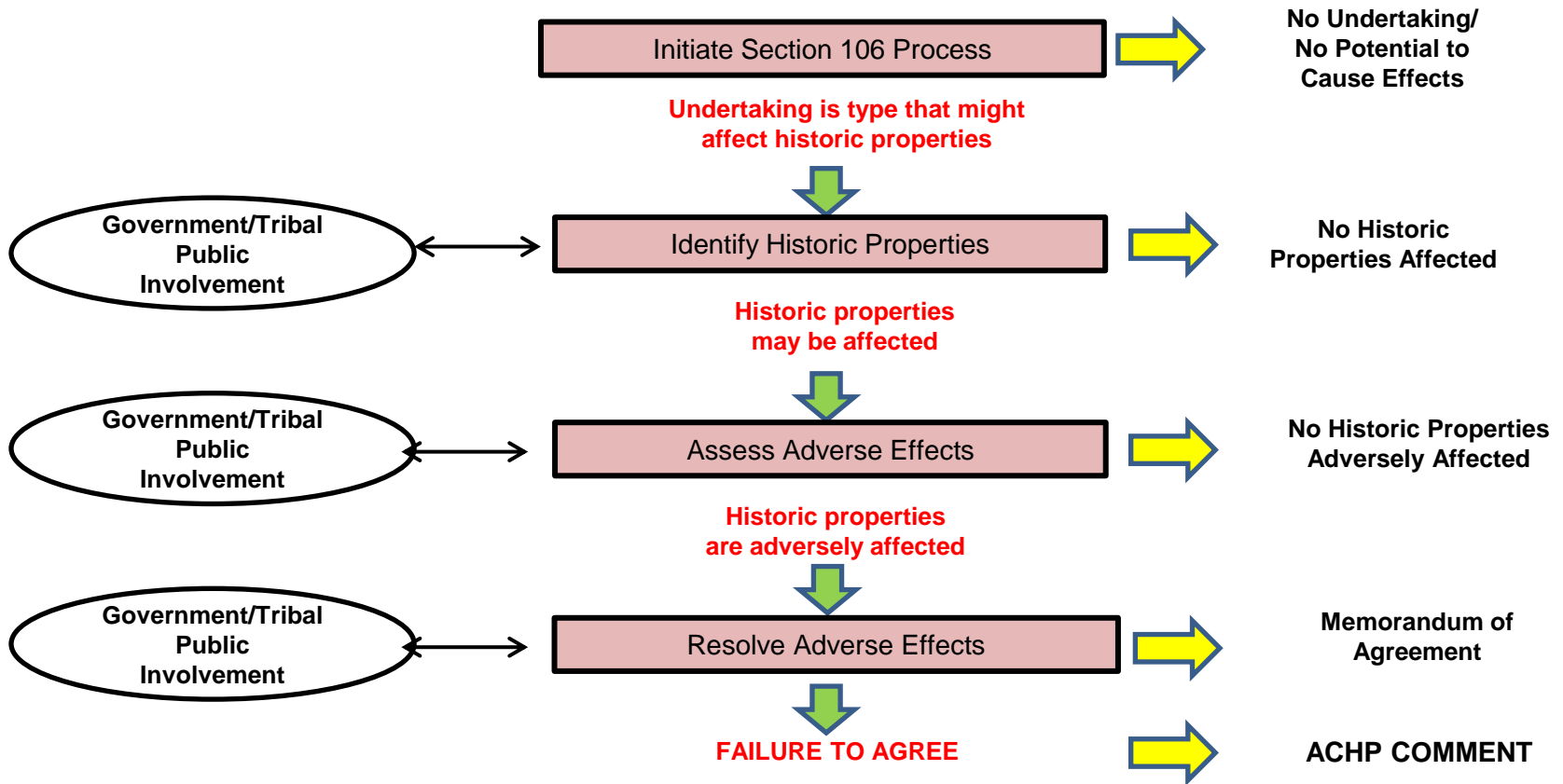
# **Generic Environmental Impact Statement**

- **GEIS for In-Situ Leach Uranium Milling Facilities (NUREG-1910)**
- **Tier to site-specific SEISs**
  - **Incorporation by reference**
  - **Adoption of impact conclusions**
- **Issued 3 Final SEISs since March 2010**
- **Plan to issue 2 Final SEISs in 2013**

# Efficiency Gains



# The Section 106 Process



# **Section 106 Process Challenges**

- **Large number of Native American Tribes**
- **Tribal requests for field surveys**
- **Section 106 process timeliness**

# **Section 106 Consultation Status**

- **Completed 4 Section 106 reviews since March 2010**
- **8 reviews currently under way**
- **Plan to complete 3 reviews in FY 13 and 5 in FY 14**

# **Environmental Review Process Enhancements**

- **Greater coordination with Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Implementation of the MOU with Bureau of Land Management**
- **Pro-active coordination with State Agencies and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**
- **Increased Tribal outreach**
- **Earlier engagement of stakeholders**



# **Environmental Review Process Enhancements (Cont.)**

## **Section 106 Process Improvements**

- **Training for staff**
- **Using experts to support our review**
- **Developing uranium recovery guidance**

# **Conclusion**

- **Substantial Progress**
- **Program Enhancements**
- **Increasing Workload**