

March 12, 2004

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2004-02,  
“DEFERRAL OF ACTIVE REGULATION OF GROUND-WATER PROTECTION AT *IN SITU*  
LEACH URANIUM EXTRACTION FACILITIES” (STP-04- 018)**

On March 12, 2004 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a Federal Register (FR) Notice (69 FR 11899) providing opportunity to comment on Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-02, “Regulatory Issue Summary for Deferring Active Regulation Of Ground-Water Protection at *In Situ* Leach Uranium Extraction Facilities.”

The NRC is proposing to end duplication of ground-water protection programs at *In Situ* Leaching (ISL) facilities by deferring active ground-water regulation to EPA authorized States. The RIS summarizes the process that the NRC plans to use for insuring that a State’s ground-water protection program provides adequate protection of public health and safety, and the environment, equivalent to the NRC program.

Electronic copies of RIS 2004-02 are available in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS accession number for this document is ML040550197. Please note that this document is available for public comment for 30 days from the publication date of the FR notice.

Please provide your comments\* to Mr. John Lusher, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop T-8 A33, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Telephone (301)415-7694, or e-mail [jhl@nrc.gov](mailto:jhl@nrc.gov).

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or the individual named below:

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**/RA/**  
Paul H. Lohaus, Director,  
Office of State and Tribal Programs

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\*This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 06/30/04 and OMB 3150-0200, expiration 05/31/06. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Forward any comments regarding the burden estimate to the Information and Records Branch (T-6F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0029 and 3150-0200), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a document does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information.

STP-04-018

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