

March 21, 2005

Ms. Suzi Neitzel
Compliance Coordinator and Deputy SHPO
Idaho State Historical Society
210 Main Street
Boise, ID 83702

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING OBJECTS OF CULTURAL AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AT THE FORMER SALMON RIVER
URANIUM DEVELOPMENT MILL SITE

Dear Ms. Neitzel:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is working with the State of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service on the future decommissioning of the former Salmon River Uranium Development, Inc. (SRUD) mill site located near North Fork, Idaho. The property is located in Section 26, Township 24 North, Range 20 East, on the north side of the Salmon River. The mill consists of one main building and two adjacent buildings. The site's exterior property has two above-ground corrosive material storage tanks, two dilapidated camper trailers, an ore inlet chute structure, and a 0.8-acre dry tailings pond. Based on previous site visits and historical information, the site has radiological contamination levels that would not meet the criteria for unrestricted release in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. Radiological contamination is located inside the buildings, the dry tailings pond, and is believed to extend to an area of 2 acres around the mill.

The future decommissioning of the SRUD site may include the following activities:

1. Radiological characterization of the property to determine the actual levels of contamination on the property.
2. Removal and off-site disposal of contaminated material on the soil and wall surfaces inside the buildings, the tailings pond, and around the mill within an area of 2 acres. Heavy equipment may be needed to accomplish this.
3. Removal and off-site disposal of contaminated equipment inside the buildings. Heavy equipment may be needed to accomplish this.
4. Backfilling of excavated soil inside the buildings and around the mill.
5. Final radiological survey confirming that contamination levels in the property meet the unrestricted release regulatory requirements in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E.

The NRC is working on the development of an environmental review for the property. In order to evaluate any possible environmental impacts during the decommissioning of the SRUD site, the NRC requests your assistance to obtain information about any existing objects of cultural

and archaeological importance in or around the property. Please be aware that the activities mentioned in this letter do not represent the actual decommissioning work at the facility, but rather a projection of the tasks that are expected to be conducted during the decommissioning project. Final project scope and tasks will be determined after completion of an environmental review, and coordination with the State of Idaho and USDA Forest Service has been finalized. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and as part of our NEPA review, the NRC will consult with you in the future to get your comments before commencing any decommissioning activities in or around the SRUD site.

In summary, the NRC requests your comments regarding the presence of any existing objects of cultural and archaeological importance in the vicinity of the former SRUD mill site. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the decommissioning of the SRUD site, please feel free to reach me at (301) 415-0193. You can mail the information to the following address:

Rafael L. Rodriguez, Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T7E18
Washington, DC 20555-0001

In order to develop the environmental review in a timely manner, I would appreciate if you can provide the information within 30 days from the date you receive this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) or from the Publicly Available Record (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC's public website at the following address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rafael L. Rodriguez, Project Manager
Decommissioning Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-03400
License Nos.: R-0230 (expired), P-4001 (expired)

Enclosure: Portion of the Salmon National Forest Travel Map-West Half.
cc: See Distribution

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Enclosure: Portion of the Salmon National Forest Travel Map-West Half.
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*See previous concurrence

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