

40-8964

**From:** Paul Michalak  
**To:** John McCarthy  
**Date:** 01/25/2007 10:28:58 AM  
**Subject:** Action: coal bed methane issue - North Butte site

John,

I've done some research into coal bed methane wells in the North Butte area and it appears there are a number of active or pending well permits both within and adjacent to the proposed North Butte Satellite site. Please provide information on the coal bed methane wells (e.g., location, depth, and status) within and adjacent to the proposed North Butte Satellite site. Also, please provide an evaluation of the potential for cumulative environmental impacts from coal methane and In Situ Leach (ISL) uranium recovery operations (e.g., impact on ground water resources, coal bed water discharges impacting ISL well fields, etc.) at the North Butte ISL Satellite.

Basis: NUREG-1569 (page 2-4) acceptance criteria states that the application contain information in sufficient detail to understand surrounding land and water uses, such that the likely consequences imposed by in situ leach operations can be adequately assessed. 10 CFR Part 51.60(a) and 10 CFR Part 51.45(b)(1) and (2) require applicants for amendments to a source material license to consider, in their environmental evaluation, all the adverse environmental effects of their proposal.

If you have any questions, feel free to call.

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Uranium Recovery Branch  
301-415-7612

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**From:** Paul Michalak  
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**Recipients**  
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