



August 23, 2007

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72 FR 40344

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NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

Mr. Michael Lesar, Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch  
Mr. Andrew Campbell  
Mail Stop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Uranium Recovery GEIS; Request for Extension of Comment Period

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the nearly one million members and electronic activists of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), I formally request an extension of at least ninety (90) days in which to submit written comments in the above matter. Currently, written comments are required to be submitted no later than September 4, 2007.

The importance of a thorough and adequate National Environmental Policy Act review of the impacts of uranium recovery will be of paramount importance to a number of communities across the country. The technical issues presented in such a review will be daunting. Even a non-exhaustive list of matters that must be thoroughly addressed include hydrogeological impacts, air emissions impacts, the adequacy of financial assurance, and significant environmental justice concerns. In the brief window of time allotted for the comments, especially in light of August schedules and the Labor Day holiday, and the wide range of professionals that are interested in participating in NRDC's comments, extension into the fall is warranted to allow for such input and meaningful, comprehensive comments.

Moreover, we urge the NRC to hold additional public hearings on the Uranium Recovery GEIS if an extension of time is granted. Currently, the only scheduled public meetings have included Casper, Wyoming and Albuquerque, New Mexico. We urge the NRC to hold public hearings in towns and communities where the impacts of uranium mining will be most dramatic. Such towns include Crownpoint, Church Rock, Gallup, and Grants in New Mexico and relevant communities in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Texas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Arizona where new ISL mining may occur. The NRC should also consider a public meeting in Washington, D.C. so that several interested national public interest groups could participate.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey H. Fettus  
Senior Project Attorney

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