

NRCREP - Written Comments

From: "Lynda Lovejoy" <llovejoy@osogrande.com>
To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
Date: 10/03/2007 10:32 PM
Subject: Written Comments

Re: Uranium recovery GEIS, scoping comments

I am hereby submitting my written comments regarding the above subject matter. Please accept my written comments into the record. When the hearing was held in Gallup, NM, I had a very important family commitment and could not attend the hearing. Thank you.

Lynda Lovejoy, State Senator, District 22, New Mexico. Please email back w/ acknowledgement that my email and attachment has been received.

7/24/07

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A. Fetter (AHF)

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Subject: Written Comments
Creation Date Wed, Oct 3, 2007 10:31 PM
From: "Lynda Lovejoy" <llovejoy@osogrande.com>

Created By: llovejoy@osogrande.com

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26 September 2007

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

Re: Uranium Recovery GEIS; Scoping Comments

Dear Sir:

Please accept this letter as a response to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Federal Register Notice dated July 24, 2007 regarding the scope of the proposed Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("GEIS") for in situ leach ("ISL") uranium mining. Please note my concerns below.

First, the process by which the NRC arrived at its conclusion to draft a GEIS is fundamentally flawed. There was no public input about whether a GEIS is needed or desirable. Given the site-specific nature of ISL operations, the usefulness of a GEIS is dubious at best. This process gives the impression that drafting a GEIS that would expedite the ISL licensing process was a foregone conclusion. Under the NRC's proposal, circumventing the public's right to comment on the GEIS is disgraceful and disrespectful because the shortcut process is an attempt to pool all licensing application into a single "generic" EIS rather than resorting to a thorough review of each case on a case-by-case basis.

Second, the scoping process itself has been deeply flawed. Only two public meetings have been scheduled on this matter –one in Casper, Wyoming and one in Albuquerque, NM. Additionally, a special meeting with the National Mining Association was held in Washington, D. C. None of these communities is the site of any proposed ISL mining operations. Communities that face proposed ISL mining such as Crownpoint (my home), Church Rock, and Grants, were ignored.

Here in New Mexico, more than a dozen companies have applied for permits or licenses to explore for uranium and to construct new mining and milling facilities on hundreds of acres in northwestern New

Mexico without agreeing to assist the state or Native American tribes in remediating the legacy left from the devastating environmental impacts of past uranium mining activities. Hundreds of abandoned and un-reclaimed uranium mines still exist in communities where our people live breathing the air and drinking the water. State and federal studies have repeatedly shown that surface water, ground water and soils were and remain irreversibly contaminated by past uranium mining and milling. Issuing approval for ISL operations in close proximity to residential homes, where animals graze, and the companies needing to tap into a community's only source of drinking water is absolutely unforgiving.

Our New Mexico state governmental leaders have always committed to our state citizens a transparent and open process that ensures thorough review of any activity that would affect our water resource and pose potential public health risks. We want the NRC to follow that same commitment by respecting the right of the people public input.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on this matter.

I remain,

Lynda M. Lovejoy
State Senator
P. O. Box 705
Crownpoint, NM 87313