



October 16, 2007

Mr. Larry Camper
Director
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Camper:

The National Mining Association (NMA) requests a two-week extension of the scoping period (for all stakeholders) for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's notice of intent to prepare a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with *in situ* uranium recovery (ISR) facilities. (72 Fed. Reg. 40344).

The current comment period is due to expire October 31, 2007. As you are aware, NMA intends to provide comprehensive up-to-date, technical and operational data to ensure NRC has the technical and environmental information it needs to prepare the GEIS. NMA has hired contractors to prepare a submission that will contain information on existing comprehensive environmental studies, technical studies and data, pertinent NRC Guidance, pertinent administrative proceedings and industry operating knowledge. While the contract NMA has entered into contained a very tight timeline to ensure that NMA can provide NRC with the report in a timely manner, some delays have occurred. In order to provide a first rate submission, NMA requests a two-week extension of the deadline for scoping comments, until November 15. NMA anticipates submission of the report to NRC prior to November 15 but we want to avoid the need for any additional extension requests.

An extension is particularly appropriate given that the domestic uranium recovery industry has the operating experience, technical "know-how", and real life data to necessary to fill in any existing knowledge gaps in order to prepare a comprehensive, informed ISR GEIS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202/463-2627 or ksweeney@nma.org.

Sincerely,

Katie Sweeney
Associate General Counsel