

**PRI clearance**

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**From:** <Chris\_Arthur@blm.gov>  
**To:** <pxm2@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** 10/15/2007 3:26 PM  
**Subject:** PRI clearance

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Hi Paul:

attached is a copy of the clearance paperwork we'll be sending down to Wyoming SHPO (soon's it is signed). I'll send you paper copies, but this will get you started. I think this should cover you for cultural resources, but keep in mind if there are any mine units crossing into the non-inventoried area, they'll need to be looked at. Also, I'll make sure Bob Specht gets a copy of this.

have a great week... oh, and the .gif is a present.

C.S. Arthur  
Archaeologist  
BLM Casper Field Office  
(307) 261-7501

Situational Awareness is how you get a passing grade at the School of Hard Knocks

**Mail Envelope Properties** (4713BEE0.DBB : 10 : 7611)

**Subject:** PRI clearance  
**Creation Date** 10/15/2007 3:25:45 PM  
**From:** <Chris\_Arthur@blm.gov>  
**Created By:** Chris\_Arthur@blm.gov

**Recipients**

nrc.gov

TWGWPO01.HQGWDO01  
PXM2 (Paul Michalak)

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**Route**

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<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
MESSAGE	615	10/15/2007 3:25:45 PM
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SmithRanchRoad.doc	32256	
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P9270615.gif	290102	
Mime.822	993145	

**Options**

**Expiration Date:** None  
**Priority:** Standard  
**ReplyRequested:** No  
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**Security:** Standard

8100 (480)  
Project No. 62-2008-0020

Mary Hopkins  
Archæology and Compliance  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Barrett Building, 3rd Floor  
2301 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

**Re:** Power Resources, Incorporated, Smith Ranch Facility expansion

Dear Ms Hopkins:

The following documents a follow-up inventory of a short segment of access road that leads to Power Resources, Incorporated's proposed satellite processing plant. The access route crosses an area which appears to have been overlooked in plotting various prior surveys. Approximately 1.8 ac have been disturbed.

**Background:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is permitting expansion of the Power Resources, Incorporated Smith Ranch Project in Converse County, Wyoming. Existing data review suggested all cultural resources inventory had been completed, so authorization was given to construct the new access road and preliminary leveling for the Satellite SR-2 Processing plant. The NRC requested information regarding cultural resources clearance so construction of the processing plant could be completed prior to the onset of winter weather.

**Actions:** BLM examined the existing survey coverage and found that the newly constructed road crossed about 200 m of area between two prior surveys. There were no known or previously recorded sites in the immediate vicinity. BLM conducted an examination of the tract on 17 August 2007. No signs of cultural materials within the road (an existing road that was upgraded), adjacent to the road in cut/fill/grader ditch, nor along the road alignment in the undisturbed area out about 100 m. The probability of this road work having disrupted any significant cultural resources is minimal.

The newly constructed access road crosses rolling sage-covered terrain. The major drainage is to the eastnortheast, and the tributaries crossed by the road trend in the same general direction. No permanent water is available in the near vicinity. Vegetation consists primarily of sagebrush, a minor complement of greasewood, prairie grasses and forbs. Local soils are grayish tan sandy loam derived from shallowly buried shaley sandstone bedrock. Project area vegetation is around 5000 ft with a generally northerly aspect.

A file search conducted prior to examining the road indicated that two block surveys have taken place in the immediate project area, one in 1985 and the other in 1998. Both surveys were carried out in support of uranium exploration. Due to some differences in boundaries among the inventoried tracts, the N $\frac{1}{2}$  N $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 17, the N $\frac{1}{2}$  N $2$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 16 and other parts of Sec. 16, T35N, R74W were left uninventoried. A number of oil and gas actions have also been carried out in the area. Prehistoric sites are relatively abundant, but lie to the north of the new access road. No known sites will be affected. The topographic position of the new access suggests that the potential for cultural resources is limited.

**Results:** The newly bladed access road begins in the SW¼ SE¼ SE¼ E¼, Sec. 8, T35N, R74W at a junction of existing upgraded roads. It runs southwest for about 500 m to the processing plant site. Roughly 250 m of the upgraded road lay on previously unsurveyed surface. NE¼ NW¼ NE¼, Sec. 17. As noted above, the previously uninventoried segment of the access road was examined closely: the running surface, adjacent borrow ditches, and a swath on either side of the disturbance. Apart from a modern-era fenced enclosure, there were no signs of prehistoric or historic cultural materials. Road construction caused no effect to previously recorded or new sites. Continued use of the road will have no effect on historic properties. No further action is recommended. However, it must be noted that the current work did not fill in the uninventoried area in the NE¼ of Sec. 17 and in Sec. 16. Any activities in the unsurveyed areas will need additional inventory coverage.

## STIPULATIONS

The Bureau will require the following stipulations on the appropriate approval document:

- 1. CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES STIPULATION.** Any cultural or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object or fossil) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures shall be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact BLM Casper Field Office archaeologist Christopher Arthur at (307) 261-7501 or email to [Chris\\_Arthur@BLM.gov](mailto:Chris_Arthur@BLM.gov).

Sincerely,

Assistant Field Manager, Resources

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