

January 31, 2008

Mr. Michael Thomas  
Environmental, Safety, and Health Manager  
Uranerz Energy Corporation  
1701 East "E" Street  
P.O. Box 50850  
Casper, WY 82605-0850

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JANUARY 17, 2008 MEETING - URANERZ ENERGY CORPORATION

Dear Mr. Thomas:

A summary of the meeting between U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of Uranerz Energy Corp. (Uranerz) on January 17, 2008, is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed meeting summary, please contact me at (301) 415-7777, or by email at [rcl1@nrc.gov](mailto:rcl1@nrc.gov).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ron C. Linton, Project Manager  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery  
Licensing Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 04009067

Enclosure: Meeting Summary

cc: G. Mooney (WDEQ)

January 31, 2008

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## MEETING REPORT

DATE: January 17, 2008

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland  
Room T8C5

PURPOSE: Discuss Uranerz Energy Corporation's Nichols Ranch Project License Application

ATTENDEES: SEE ATTACHED ATTENDEE LIST

### BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this meeting was for Uranerz Energy Corporation (UEC) to present and discuss its recently submitted license application for an in-situ leach facility for the Nichols Ranch area. The application was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in December 2007, and is currently being replicated in ADAMS.

### DISCUSSION:

The meeting started with a presentation by Mike Thomas of UEC, outlining the license application. A hard copy of the presentation is enclosed with this meeting summary. The application consists of 11 volumes and follows the guidance provided by NUREG-1569 and NUREG-1748. The technical report can be found in Volumes I and II of the application; the environmental report is in Volume III. UEC has also included supporting information related to hydrology, soils, vegetation, and wildlife. Sensitive cultural resources information has been submitted as a separate volume and identified as non-public.

Following the discussion of the Nichols Ranch application, Mike Thomas gave a brief overview of UEC's planned activities for 2008. UEC plans on beginning background studies on at least one new facility in 2008. Collins Draw will likely be the focus of the 2008 baseline activities. This area was previously licensed as a research and development facility and was operated by Cleveland Cliffs in the 1970s.

After the presentation, Mike Thomas provided information to staff on the more detailed aspects of the Nichols Ranch application. Items that were discussed during this portion of the meeting included: site layout, number and location of mine units, aquifer exemption process with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Wyoming, presence of coal bed methane (CBM) in the area, inclusion of cumulative impacts in the application, land use, location of the nearest resident, transportation issues, and location of the project in relation to the Pumpkin Buttes.

Below is a series of major issues or questions that were addressed during the meeting.

Enclosure

Mike Thomas asked about the review timeframe and how long it is expected for license issuance.

*NRC staff briefly discussed the review process, which consists of an acceptance review period of 90 days, completion of a request for additional information within 150 days of the acceptance review, and a target date for completion of the safety evaluation report within 12 months of the acceptance review. The environmental review will follow a similar process, but may lag behind the technical review. It is anticipated that the total timeframe from submission of the application to issuance of the license will take between 18 and 24 months. If a petition to intervene is filed and a hearing is held, this may increase the amount of time to issue the license.*

Mike Thomas asked about the NRC's staffing levels and how the resources will be allocated among the initial 3 applications, as well as potential future applications.

*NRC staff indicated that the NRC will generally follow a first in, first reviewed policy. If an application is not accepted for review, it is removed from the queue until it is resubmitted. NRC is currently working on the budget for future years and letters of intent are helpful for future NRC planning and staffing resources.*

After the initial presentation and discussion, members of the public in attendance were invited to ask questions of the NRC staff. Shannon Anderson asked about the status of the GEIS project.

*NRC staff indicated that the GEIS is currently scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2009. It is anticipated that a draft version of the GEIS will be available for public comment in the spring or summer of 2008.*

Sarah Fields asked about the NRC's review process, if the proposed site was previously licensed, and would previous *in-situ* operations be considered in the review.

*NRC staff indicated that the review will consider previous uses of the property and any information that is available.*

Sarah Fields asked about the transfer of certain functions of the Mine Safety and Health Administration to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

*NRC staff responded that they were not specifically aware of this issue.*

After public comments, Mike Thomas opened a hardcopy of the application the NRC staff brought to the meeting and discussed with the NRC staff present.

Mike Thomas asked about the submission of applications for future satellites that are tied to the Nichols Ranch Project. Is it possible to submit an amendment for a satellite facility for a project that has not yet been issued an NRC license? For example, the Nichols Ranch application was submitted in December 2008. If an application for a satellite to Nichols Ranch is submitted in November 2009, would this be considered an amendment to Nichols Ranch submission or a new facility license as the license for Nichols Ranch likely would not be issued prior to submission?

*This is a scenario that the NRC staff has not considered and will have to provide feedback at a future date.*

Mike Thomas asked about the NRC's fee billing schedule for the application review process.

*NRC staff indicated that the NRC's fee billing will continue on a quarterly basis.*

The public was again asked if they had any further questions for the NRC staff. There were none.

ACTIONS:               None

The teleconference ended at approximately 12:00 pm eastern time.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Meeting Agenda  
                  2. Attendee List  
                  3. PowerPoint Presentation

MEETING AGENDA  
Uranerz Energy Corporation  
January 17, 2008

MEETING PURPOSE: Discuss Uranerz Energy Corporation's Nichols Ranch ISR Project License Application.

MEETING PROCESS:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Moderator
	Introductions	All
	Review of the Uranerz Energy Corporation's Nichols Ranch ISR Project License Application Format	
	Discussion of Application Review Process	
	Future Licensing Plans	
	Summary of Action Items	Moderator
	Public Comments/Questions	Moderator
12:00 Noon	Adjourn	

