

From: Ron Linton
To: Betty Garrett
Date: 02/22/2008 10:20:40 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Request for assistance: Native American Consultation Pumpkin Buttes

Please docket as publically availabe. 040-08502

>>> <Clint_Crago@blm.gov> 2/21/2008 4:51 PM >>>

I have not heard that COGEMA has contacted us about that area. We have been working with the understanding that if any federal surface is involved in a plan of operations, then we do the NEPA, NHPA, etc (analysis) of the project. If it doesn't, then you (NRC) does it. Is that how you see it? Perhaps a re-initiation of a previously licensed area is different. Since, uranium has been down for so many years, it is a new experience for most of us. I would say that they only need to contact us if we are doing any of the analysis and environmental documents?

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-----"Ron Linton" <RCL1@nrc.gov> wrote: -----

To: <Clint_Crago@blm.gov>
From: "Ron Linton" <RCL1@nrc.gov>
Date: 02/21/2008 02:33PM
cc: "Johari Moore" <JAM7@nrc.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for assistance: Native American Consultation Pumpkin Buttes

Craig:

Thanks for the prompt reply. The COGEMA licensed boundary for Christensen Ranch is close to the base of the North Butte, so I think we are within the 2 mile boundary. The COGEMA site has been licensed for over 20 years, it's just they went into decommissioning mode for awhile and now want to restart. We will start the consultation process with the 9 tribes you provided. I've read in their previous License Application that part of their facility is on BLM land. I don't know if they have discussed their restart proposal with you or not. Should I have them contact you?

Ron

>>> <Clint_Crago@blm.gov> 02/21/2008 4:16 PM >>>

Hi Ron,

The Pumpkin Buttes have been determined to be a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) and we are doing Native American consultation on any project within 2 miles of the Buttes (roughly). Technically, we are using our judgement to determine if a project can be seen from the Buttes, since it has been determined that oil, gas, and mineral extraction activities are an adverse effect to the setting of the Buttes. It can be a complex issue, especially since so much activity is currently happening there.

We have executed 2 MOAs with Wyoming SHPO and Anadarko Petroleum for mitigation of visual effects from coalbed methane activities near the Buttes, however both are within the last year and a half, so it is hard to measure "success" yet. Reducing the number of reservoirs, coridorring pipelines with existing roads and painting facilities with preferred environmental colors are the main mitigation measures. I will also be working with Uranerz on a similar MOA (hopefully) for an in-situ uranium location.

You'd be lucky to *only* contact all of the tribes in Wyoming, since there are only two. However, attached is the short list of tribes that wanted to be informed of activities around the Pumpkin Buttes. Our long list actually totals over 20, but there are only 9 on this one. Let me know if you have any other questions.

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-----"Ron Linton" <RCL1@nrc.gov> wrote: -----

To: <Clint_Crago@blm.gov>
From: "Ron Linton" <RCL1@nrc.gov>
Date: 02/21/2008 10:48AM
Subject: Request for assistance: Native American Consultation Pumpkin Buttes

Clint:

I left a message with you earlier, but sometimes e-mail is more effective with our busy schedules. I've been discussing the need for Native American (NA) consultation with WY SHPO for the COGEMA in-situ leach facility restart which is approx. 2.5 miles due west of North Butte. COGEMA's operation has been in reclamation and restoration mode over the past 6 years or so and now wants to restart operations under the same conditions that NRC had approved in 1998. Joe Daniele of WY SHPO suggested I contact BLM for a list of tribes that have interest in the Pumpkin Buttes. Paul Michalak of our office has discussed NA consultation with you in relation to the PRI North Butte project. What I hope to do is have a short list of tribes that have interest in the Pumpkin Buttes I can send 106 consultation letters to. I hope to not send 106 consultation letters to every tribe in the state. Any suggestions? I appreciate you help.

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