

Betty Garrett

From: Ron Linton
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2008 4:05 PM
To: Betty Garrett
Subject: FW: Response re. Blowout Penstemon at CR/IR
Attachments: response to NRC-TE report.doc

Betty:
Please docket e-mail and attachment as public.
Ron

From: HARDGROVE Tom (AREVA RESOURCES INC) [mailto:tom.hardgrove@areva.com]
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2008 10:11 AM
To: Ron Linton
Subject: Response re. Blowout Penstemon at CR/IR

Ron:
See attachment I noted to you in Denver.

Tom

Received: from HQCLSTR01.nrc.gov ([148.184.44.79]) by OWMS01.nrc.gov
([148.184.100.43]) with mapi; Tue, 6 May 2008 16:04:46 -0400
Content-Type: application/ms-tnef; name="winmail.dat"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: binary
From: Ron Linton <Ron.Linton@nrc.gov>
To: Betty Garrett <Betty.Garrett@nrc.gov>
Date: Tue, 6 May 2008 16:04:44 -0400
Subject: FW: Response re. Blowout Penstemon at CR/IR
Thread-Topic: Response re. Blowout Penstemon at CR/IR
Thread-Index: AcisXI9r5nYMDXm7QyGVdpICqi2A/ADVfVuQ
Message-ID: <1FA53ADF29758448974A8AC1118E627E4E334E5CB8@HQCLSTR01.nrc.gov>
Accept-Language: en-US
Content-Language: en-US
X-MS-Has-Attach: yes
X-MS-Exchange-Organization-SCL: -1
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
<1FA53ADF29758448974A8AC1118E627E4E334E5CB8@HQCLSTR01.nrc.gov>
MIME-Version: 1.0

Mr. Tom Hardgrove
Areva Resources Inc.

April 25, 2008

RE: NRC inquiry – T&E Report for Irigaray and Christensen Ranch

Dear Tom,

Per your forward of Mr. Ron Linton's (NRC) email inquiry from April 23, 2008 regarding the potential for the endangered blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*) to occur in the Irigaray/Christensen Ranch project area, I offer the following information. This assessment has been reviewed by both Ms. Jan McKee (no relation) and Ms. Patricia Deibert of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS's) Ecological Services Office (ESO) in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and has been determined to be accurate for the project area.

Please feel free to have Mr. Linton contact me with any further questions or concerns, or to contact me yourself, and I will be happy to provide additional assistance.

Regards,



Gwyn McKee
Technical Director/Senior Wildlife Biologist
307-686-6178
gmckee@jsanet.com

The blowout penstemon is a member of the snapdragon family. The USFWS listed the plant as endangered in 1987. This species is restricted to shifting, sparsely vegetated sand dunes. The micro habitat within dune complexes consists of conical or irregularly-shaped craters scooped out of sand dunes and dune complexes by the swirling action of prevailing westerly winds. This plant is a primary invader that does not persist when a blowout becomes completely vegetated (Pool 1914).

Blowout penstemon is typically associated with the Nebraska sandhills. It was first discovered in Wyoming in 1996 in the sand dune country south of the Ferris Mountains in Carbon County, and was confirmed as present there in 1999. Currently, the Wyoming population is confined to an area of approximately 20 acres on BLM land in northern Carbon County. According to Ms. Jan McKee, of the USFWS ESO in Cheyenne, the lack of sand dunes and dune complexes in the Cogema project area precludes the presence of this endangered plant in that area (J. McKee, personal communication to G. McKee, Jones & Stokes, April 24, 2008).

Sources:

November 1, 1999 USFWS Press release (USFWS web page) and Federal Register: Vol. 52, No. 169, page 32926. September 1, 1987.

Pool, R.J. 1914. A study of the vegetation of the Sandhills of Nebraska. Minnesota Botanical Studies. 3(4):189.