

August 28, 2008

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, with the assistance of its contractor and in cooperation with the State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ), has prepared the enclosed document, NUREG-1910, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for In-Situ Leach Uranium Milling Facilities – Draft Report for Comment" (Draft GEIS). The Draft GEIS was issued for public comment on July 28, 2008, and the public comment period is scheduled to close on October 7, 2008.

The purpose of the Draft GEIS is to identify and evaluate on a programmatic basis, the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning of in-situ leach (ISL) uranium recovery facilities for specific identified regions in the western United States. Based on discussions between uranium mining companies and the NRC staff, new ISL facilities could be located in portions of Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, and New Mexico. The NRC is the regulatory authority that licenses ISL facilities in these States.

From August 25 – September 25, 2008, the NRC will be holding eight public meetings with the goal of receiving comments on the draft GEIS from interested members of the public. These meetings will be held in the vicinity of potential future ISL facilities near those who could be potentially affected by that activity.

Following the close of the public comment period, the NRC staff, in cooperation with the WYDEQ, will prepare a final GEIS. The final GEIS, which will address public comments received on the Draft GEIS, is scheduled to be issued by June 1, 2009.

If you have any questions about this matter, I can be reached at 301-415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/ by Spiros C. Droggitis  
for

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Senator George V. Voinovich

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director  
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