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AUTHOR: Bob Newcomer

AFFILIATION: NM

ADDRESSEE: Dale Klein

SUBJECT: NRC Generic Environmental Impact Statement for in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mining

ACTION: Appropriate

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September 8, 2008

Dale E. Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Re: NRC Generic Environmental Impact Statement for in situ recovery
(ISR) uranium mining**

Dear Mr. Klein,

I appreciate NRC holding public meetings to encourage stakeholder/public involvement in the development of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) to be used in assessing the potential environmental impacts at *in situ* recovery facilities. The permitting of these facilities is critical to our country and the development of our energy resources. More nuclear power is needed to supply clean, inexpensive electric power and we need new mines to fuel the growing nuclear reactor fleet in the U.S.

I support new uranium mining and mineral processing operation in New Mexico and feel they can be permitted and operated in a manner that is protective of the environment as well as human health and safety.

New Mexico needs the jobs and the positive economic benefits uranium mining and processing will bring. The State is fortunate to have such a large uranium resource and it will benefit the state and local communities when these resources are developed.

The jobs associated with the uranium industry are high paying and will help us keep our children from moving outside the state to find employment. The re-emergence of the uranium industry in New Mexico will also create indirect jobs to promote the area economies.

I support the NRC in its development of the draft GEIS and feel the document does a good job of accumulating data and analyses of ISR operations that have operated over the past 30 years. It supplies a wealth of information about the ISR process.

I commend the NRC for doing a very thorough job on the draft GEIS as it provides a great source for public understanding of this mining process. My review as an earth scientist makes me very confident that uranium mining can be conducted in New Mexico in manner that is safe and will protect the worker, the public and the environment.

September 8, 2008

At a time when energy costs are rising at alarming rates and our dependence on foreign sources of energy threaten our national security we need to take advantage of all available sources of energy to meet this increased demand. This will make the ISR licensing process more efficient, while at the same time protecting human health and the environment, it is very smart public policy.

Respectfully,

Golder Associates Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bob Newcomer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Newcomer
Managing Associate