

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 11/03/08

EDO CONTROL: G20080685  
DOC DT: 09/25/08  
FINAL REPLY:

State Senator Eli D. Debout  
State of Wyoming

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 08-0527

Miller, FSME

DESC:

ROUTING:

GEIS (General Environmental Impact Statement) for  
In Situ Recovery Mining (EDATS: SECY-2008-0527)

Borchardt  
Virgilio  
Mallett  
Ash  
Ordaz  
Cyr/Burns  
Collins, RIV  
Cyr, OGC  
Adams, OEDO

DATE: 10/10/08

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

FSME

Miller

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. G20080591 and G20080687.

# EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

**EDATS Number:** SECY-2008-0587

**Source:** SECY

## General Information

**Assigned To:** FSME

**OEDO Due Date:** 11/3/2008 5:00 PM

**Other Assignees:**

**SECY Due Date:** NONE

**Subject:** GEIS (General Environmental Impact Statement) for In Situ Recovery Mining

**Description:**

**CC Routing:** Region IV; OGC

**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:** NONE

**Response/Package:** NONE

## Other Information

**Cross Reference Number:** G20080685, LTR-08-0527, G20080591, G20080687

**Staff Initiated:** NO

**Related Task:**

**Recurring Item:** NO

**File Routing:** EDATS

**Agency Lesson Learned:** NO

**Roadmap Item:** NO

## Process Information

**Action Type:** Letter

**Priority:** Medium

**Signature Level:** FSME

**Sensitivity:** None

**Urgency:** NO

**OEDO Concurrence:** NO

**OCM Concurrence:** NO

**OCA Concurrence:** NO

**Special Instructions:** Ref. G20080591 & G20080687

## Document Information

**Originator Name:** State Senator Eli D. Debout

**Date of Incoming:** 9/25/2008

**Originating Organization:** State of Wyoming

**Document Received by SECY Date:** 10/9/2008

**Addressee:** Chairman Klein

**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE

**Incoming Task Received:** Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Oct 09, 2008 13:43

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-08-0527 **LOGGING DATE:** 10/08/2008  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO  
  
**AUTHOR:** Eli Bebout  
**AFFILIATION:** WY  
**ADDRESSEE:** Dale Klein  
**SUBJECT:** Concerns GEIS for recovery in-situ uranium mining  
  
**ACTION:** Direct Reply  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF, SECY to Ack  
  
**LETTER DATE:** 09/25/2008  
**ACKNOWLEDGED** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** Staff should use response letters signed by the Chairman to Congress and Governors dated 10/01/08 to reply (ML082600015)  
**NOTES:** Immediate release to the public via SECY/EDO/DPC  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS  
**DATE DUE:** 11/03/2008 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20080685



Senator Eli D. Bebout  
Wyoming Senate

September 25, 2008

The Honorable Dale E. Klein, Chairman  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Klein,

As a member of the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee of the Wyoming Legislature, I am aware of Wyoming's role in providing the resources necessary to meet the ever-increasing energy demands of consumers both within and outside the United States. The State of Wyoming holds claim as the greatest producer of energy fuel in the United States, including oil, gas, coal, coalbed methane and uranium. It is the number one uranium producing state in the U.S.A.

Because the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking comments on the issuance of a General Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), I will focus my remarks on uranium and the importance of the uranium industry to Wyoming. More than 200 million pounds of uranium have been extracted from Wyoming, and the State has reserves of 360 million pounds of uranium remaining. In fact, there is a 35-year history of in-situ recovery (ISR) uranium mining in Wyoming, under NRC licenses.

In October 2007, the NRC received the first new ISR license application in almost 20 years from a company wishing to conduct ISR uranium mining in Wyoming. Now, the NRC has four new ISR applications under review for Wyoming projects.

In an effort to streamline the processing of these new uranium projects, the NRC issued a GEIS to address programmatic issues with ISR uranium mines. However, instead of streamlining the process the result has been a delay of at least six months, from January 2009 to June 2009 for the early applicants.

Although the three companies that submitted applications for projects in Wyoming asked not to be tied to the GEIS to avoid delays, they were given assurances that the process would move forward in a timely manner with an issue date of January 2009 for the GEIS. These companies are publicly traded, with funding that is derived from investors who have based their investments on commitments by the company and statements made by the regulatory agencies. Each month of delay erodes the funds allocated for the construction of these Wyoming projects and seriously jeopardizes further support from the investment community.

Committees:

*Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources  
Minerals, Business and Economic Development*



Senator Eli D. Bebout  
Wyoming Senate

Additionally, the delay of the GEIS and subsequent license approval impacts the associated economic contribution from the uranium industry in terms of direct and indirect jobs, infrastructure and services, and all associated tax revenues. Further, adhering to the original schedule of January 2009, does not affect the NRC's regulatory authority and emphasis on safety.

I would like to note that the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee of the Wyoming Legislature devoted time during two meetings this summer to learn more about Wyoming's uranium industry and how the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources can assist an industry that is experiencing a rebirth with the planned construction of numerous nuclear power plants world wide.

Therefore, it is with all due respect that I strongly urge the NRC to adhere to the original schedule of January 2009 for the GEIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my view on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Senator Eli D. Bebout

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eli Bebout". To the right of the signature is a circular stamp containing the initials "EB".

cc: Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko  
Commissioner Peter B. Lyons  
Commissioner Kristine L. Svinicki

Committees:

*Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources  
Minerals, Business and Economic Development*