

December 24, 2008

Mr. Ivan Posey
Chairman
Shoshone Business Council
P.O. Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING TRIBAL HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED LICENSE APPLICATION FOR URANERZ ENERGY CORPORATION'S NICHOLS RANCH URANIUM RECOVERY PROJECT IN CAMPBELL AND JOHNSON COUNTIES, WYOMING (Docket No. 040-09067)

Dear Mr. Posey:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received an application from Uranerz Energy Corporation for a new radioactive source materials license to construct and operate the Nichols Ranch Uranium Recovery Project (an *in-situ* recovery operation) located in Campbell and Johnson Counties, Wyoming. The proposed project will consist of two project areas: 1) the Nichols Ranch Unit located in Township 43 North, Range 76 West, Sections 7, 8, 17, 18, and 20 and 2) the Hank Satellite Unit located in Township 44 North, Range 75 West Sections 30 and 31, and Township 43 North, Range 75 West Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8. The Nichols Ranch Unit will be the location of the main uranium processing facility with the Hank Satellite Unit being a satellite operation. The location of the Nichols Ranch Uranium Recovery Project is within five miles of two currently licensed *in-situ* leach facilities, the AREVA (COGEMA) Christensen Ranch Project and the Power Resources Inc. North Butte License Area. A map showing the general location of the proposed project and a detailed map showing the location of the Nichols Ranch Unit and the Hank Satellite Unit in relation to the Pumpkin Buttes are attached.

As established in Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR 51), the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action that will tier off a Generic Environmental Impact Statement currently under development. The NRC's EA process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the development of the EA. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the EA will include an analysis of potential impacts to historic and cultural properties. To support the environmental review, the NRC is requesting information to facilitate the identification of Tribal historic sites or cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed Nichols Ranch Uranium Recovery Project. Specifically, the NRC is interested in learning of any sites that you believe have traditional religious or cultural significance. Any input you provide will be used to enhance the scope and quality of our review in accordance with 10 CFR 51 and 36 CFR 800. After reviewing all of the information collected, the NRC will prepare a draft EA and will provide your office an opportunity to comment.

I. Posey

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The Uranerz Energy Corporation's Nichols Ranch Uranium Recovery Project license application is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The accession number for the application is ML080080594.

Please submit any comments/information that you may have regarding this environmental review within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Mr. Gregory Suber, Mail Stop T-8F05, Washington, DC 20555. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Irene Yu of my staff by telephone at 301-415-1951 or by email at irene.yu@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory F. Suber, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 040-09067

Enclosures:

1. Uranerz Energy Corporation Figure 1-1
2. Uranerz Energy Corporation Exhibit B

I. Posey

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Please submit any comments/information that you may have regarding this environmental review within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attn: Mr. Gregory Suber, Mail Stop T-8F05, Washington, DC 20555. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Irene Yu of my staff by telephone at 301-415-1951 or by email at irene.yu@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Gregory F. Suber, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 040-09067

Enclosures:

1. Uranerz Energy Corporation Figure 1-1
2. Uranerz Energy Corporation Exhibit B

IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO ATTACHED LIST

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OFC	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB
NAME	IYu:dm	TMoon	GSuber
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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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