

March 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Andrea Kock, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
EPPAD/DWMEP/FSME

FROM: Irene W. Yu, Project Manager **/RA/**
Environmental Review Branch
EPPAD/DWMEP/FSME

Behram Shroff, Project Manager **/RA/**
Environmental Review Branch
EPPAD/DWMEP/FSME

Alan Bjornsen, Project Manager **/RA/**
Environmental Review Branch
EPPAD/DWMEP/FSME

SUBJECT: INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL
AGENCIES IN WYOMING REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEWS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE MOORE RANCH,
NICHOLS RANCH, AND LOST CREEK IN-SITU LEACH
APPLICATIONS FOR SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSES
(DOCKET NOS. 040-09073, 040-09067, 040-09068,
RESPECTIVELY)

During the week of January 12, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and their contractor staff informally met with various local, state, and federal agencies in Wyoming regarding the environmental reviews being conducted on the Moore Ranch, Nichols Ranch, and Lost Creek In-Situ Leach (ISL) applications for Source Material Licenses. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss any comments or concerns they may have on these projects and to better understand the agency's procedures and regulations and how they fit in with NRC's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The following is a summary of each meeting and a list of participants.

CONTACT: Irene Yu, DWMEP/FSME
(301) 415-1951

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Cheyenne, Wyoming – January 12, 2009**Meeting Summary**

Regarding the Nichols Ranch Project, we discussed the proximity to the Pumpkin Buttes, which is designated as a Traditional Cultural Property, and the tribal interest in the Pumpkin Buttes. The SHPO is currently working on a programmatic agreement (PA) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) pertaining to the Pumpkin Buttes. We discussed potential best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation strategies to be included in the PA such as painting the buildings a certain color to mitigate the visual effect, keeping the buildings a low profile, and adding a public education component. Regarding the Lost Creek Project, we discussed the presence of tribal artifacts with cultural significance in the nearby town of Bairoil. We also discussed the potential presence of paleontological artifacts in the Great Divide Basin because it was at one time covered with water. The mitigation strategies discussed included data recovery (where a discovery plan would be needed) and a public education component. No tribal concerns were discussed for the Moore Ranch Project. For all three projects, we discussed cumulative impacts and the importance of assessing the impacts of ISL in addition to those for coal-bed methane (CBM), oil and gas (O&G), wind, and/or coal, which are all actively underway in Wyoming. We also discussed the Section 106 process and verified NRC's responsibilities and process to submit the cultural resources information to the SHPO.

Meeting Participants

Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Richard Currit, SHPO

Follow-up Items

NRC to talk to BLM about how they want to comment when BLM lands are involved in the Section 106 process. NRC spoke to BLM following the trip about how they want to comment when BLM lands are involved in the Section 106 process. NRC will provide BLM with a copy of the complete cultural resources section of the application for discussion and concurrence prior to submitting the information to the SHPO.

State Engineer's Office (SEO), Cheyenne, Wyoming – January 12, 2009**Meeting Summary**

We discussed the importance of the ISL wells being constructed well to prevent cross-contamination between aquifers and that the applicant's provide adequate means for the closure of these wells once the facilities are decommissioned so as not to leave a conduit for cross-contamination. We discussed the differences in the roles and responsibilities of the SEO (focused on water quantity) and of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ, focused on water quality). The SEO is responsible for well permitting, which is typically done in permit blocks which allow for a certain number of wells to be constructed within a certain tract of acres. The SEO also issues permits for stormwater management impoundments.

Meeting Participants

Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
John Harju, SEO
Harry Labonde, SEO

Follow-up Items

None

Bureau of Land Management State Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming – January 12, 2009

Meeting Summary

NRC staff provided an overview of how and why the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRC headquarters and BLM headquarters was developed and the current status of the draft MOU. Having not reviewed the draft MOU, BLM staff expressed their interest in reviewing the MOU and having the MOU signed at the state level instead of at the headquarter level. BLM has an MOU in place with the DEQ and briefly explained how the MOU specifies the roles and responsibilities of each agency and the points of contact. BLM staff provided NRC staff with a copy of their MOU with DEQ and a copy of the new Department of Interior regulations on implementing NEPA to help NRC in their development of an MOU with BLM. BLM staff also stressed the importance of increased communication between them and the NRC. We discussed both BLM and NRC's NEPA responsibilities for the three ISL projects and whether an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) is more appropriate. BLM staff sees the main issues with ISL to be related to groundwater quality and cumulative impacts. Specifically, they raised the concern of the possible conflict between the reducing nature of CBM and the oxidizing nature of ISL.

Meeting Participants

Patrice Bubar, NRC (via phone)
Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Larry Claypool, BLM
Ed Heffern, BLM
Larry Jensen, BLM
Bob Janssen, BLM
Janet Kurman, BLM
Pam Stiles, BLM

Follow-up Items

NRC to continue to pursue an MOU with BLM.

Department of Environmental Quality, Cheyenne, Wyoming – January 12, 2009**Meeting Summary**

DEQ staff stressed the importance of increased communication between them and the NRC and requested the development of an MOU with the NRC. Since the DEQ issues the permits for the underground injection wells and the aquifer exemption related to ISL, we discussed in great detail DEQ's requirements from the applicant and the issues they have seen thus far in their review of the three project applications. DEQ Land Quality Division staff will coordinate the comments from all other DEQ divisions for their review of NRC's environmental documents. DEQ Water Quality Division staff provided background on the stormwater and groundwater concerns. Specifically, we discussed the different classes of injection wells and which ones apply to ISL facilities, the construction of wells and how important the construction is to minimizing cross-contamination between aquifers, the viability of ISL in an unconfined aquifer, and groundwater restoration. DEQ Air Quality Division staff provided information on air quality issues in the state. DEQ Industrial Siting Division staff provided information related to the sage grouse core areas and provided NRC with a map showing those areas. DEQ Solid and Hazardous Waste Division staff provided background on radioactive/hazardous waste disposal in the state. Regarding the Lost Creek Project, we discussed the need for increased federal and state agency interaction because the site consists primarily of federal lands. Also, DEQ staff raised some wildlife concerns as the Lost Creek Project site is located near a sage grouse core area.

Meeting Participants

Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Carl Anderson, DEQ Solid & Hazardous Waste Division
Mark Conrad, DEQ Water Quality Division
John Corra, DEQ Administration Division
Kevin Frederick, DEQ Water Quality Division
Andrew Keyfaurer, DEQ Air Quality Division
Brian Lovett, DEQ Water Quality Division
Don McKenzie, DEQ Land Quality Division
Darla Potter, DEQ Air Quality Division
Barb Sahl, DEQ Water Quality Division
Chad Schlichtemeier, DEQ Air Quality Division
Tom Schroeder, DEQ Industrial Siting Division
Paige Smith, DEQ Air Quality Division
Lowell Spackman, DEQ Land Quality Division
Ed Heffern, BLM

Follow-up Items

NRC to discuss internally on possible MOU with DEQ. Internal discussions have been held and a call is scheduled with DEQ to discuss this request.

Governor's Planning Office (GPO), Cheyenne, Wyoming – January 13, 2009**Meeting Summary**

GPO staff provided an overview of their assistance to several BLM field offices in updating their Resource Management Plans. In addition, we discussed the location of sage grouse core areas and sage grouse conservation initiatives that are being developed or are already underway.

Meeting Participants

Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Tom Blickensderfer, GPO

Follow-up Items

None

Bureau of Land Management Field Office, Rawlins, Wyoming – January 13, 2009**Meeting Summary**

The status of the Draft Generic EIS for environmental reviews for ISL facilities (GEIS) and the MOU were discussed. It was explained that the NRC would be the lead agency because of their regulation over milling (not mining) operations. The BLM inquired whether the DEQ should be a cooperating agency. The BLM indicated the state has created an MOU format for federal agencies. Typically, an MOU is made with the state and separate agencies are assigned, as applicable. Shirley Basin & Red Desert, where the Lost Creek site is located, has been extensively explored. The effects of ISLs on freshwater aquifers are critical and applicants need to show that leaching will not occur between aquifers. The Cheyenne Office of the DEQ (Steve Engle-hydrologist) will scrutinize the Lost Creek EA for groundwater issues. The Battle Springs aquifer is a major aquifer in the area. ISLs operate under BLM mining laws and these laws address land use issues. A Plan of Operations will be required by BLM for the Lost Creek site. Currently, they are functioning (exploring) under a Notice (<5 acres of disturbance). An issue of concern is fencing. If fencing of the site is proposed, there are public access issues and wild horse routes that may be impacted. In addition, applicants (ISL operators) need to address effects of their ISL operation on grazing leases. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) recommends that standard BMPs be used. Their principal concerns are for cattle and raptors. Netting would be required over waste ponds, and over mud pits. The BLM plans on meeting with UR-Energy (applicant) on January 27th on the Lost Creek site.

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Mark Newman, BLM
Clare Miller, BLM
Patrick Madigan, BLM
Travis Sanderson, FWS

Follow-up Items

NRC to keep BLM Field Offices up to date on status of MOU; BLM to send Environet a copy of the Land Status Map for Wyoming.

Bureau of Land Management Casper Field Office, Casper, Wyoming – January 13, 2009

Meeting Summary

Topics discussed included cumulative impacts, existing coal-related analyses, and hydrology at ISL sites. Specifically, with regards to cumulative impacts, BLM, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and DEQ cooperated on a study of the effects of coal, O&G, CBM, uranium, and wind development in the Powder River Basin. There are several existing coal-related analyses: five coal-related EISs either final or in progress (West Antelope, Wright, and three physical groupings: North, Middle, and South Pods). Chapter 4 in these EISs was recommended as a good resource for NRC's cumulative impacts analysis. Another EIS with good information on cumulative impacts was for Pacific Corporation/Rocky Mountain Corporation's Wind Farm in the northeastern part of the state. BLM's concerns with respect to ISL impacts were about the cross-contamination of groundwater between CBM and ISL and whether NRC was going to require groundwater monitoring. BLM is working on a reliable groundwater model for ISL projects.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Patrick Moore, BLM
Tom Foertsch, BLM
Mike Karbs, BLM

Follow-up Items

None

Sweetwater County (SC), Green River, Wyoming – January 13, 2009

Meeting Summary

Safety and emergency issues were the top concerns raised by Sweetwater County (SC). Site access, particularly on the narrow county roads, was of concern with the Bairoil representatives (trucks, dust, noise, etc.). The proposed routes were of concern, along with road improvements, maintenance, and signage. Of special interest was the amount of radiation that could be expected from trucks carrying product from the facility to the next processing facility. The Sweetwater County Fire Department (SCFD) and emergency personnel were concerned with radiation and potential exposure, construction of the facility, access, materials and waste storage, and emergency plans that the applicant would prepare. The SCFD specifically requested that plans of the facility be available to them in case of an actual emergency. Waste

disposal was an issue of great importance: what types of waste would be generated; how much would be generated; where would the waste be disposed; and what routes would be used to get there. There is also a limited workforce that is available in the SC area. Even unskilled workers are hard to come by. Other issues that were raised included: impacts to Bairoil's municipal water supply well, potential storm water discharges, waste water ponds, utilities, and air quality (dust).

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
John Radosevich, SC
Steve Horton, SC
John Barton, SC
Dennis Washam, SC
Wayne Silvers, SC
Judy Valentine, SC
Dennis Claman, SC
Robert Robinson, SC
Tony Riga, Bairoil
Sue Ann Riganco, Bairoil

Follow-up Items

NRC to find out what roads are being proposed for access to the facility. NRC to find out the levels of radiation at various locations throughout the facility, as well as during transportation. NRC to inform applicant that the SCFD would like a hazardous materials inventory.

Fremont County Planning Department, Fremont County, Wyoming – January 13, 2009

Meeting Summary

The county has no zoning laws in effect. Reviews are performed for residential subdivisions. Regarding solid waste disposal, the county operates a transfer station and landfill in Riverton. Regarding highway maintenance in the vicinity of Lost Creek (SC), the county only maintains about ten miles of the Crooks Gap-Wamsutter Road south of Jeffrey City. Beyond that point, the road is poorly maintained.

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Ray Price, Fremont County Planning Department

Follow-up Items

None

Casper Planning Department, Casper, Wyoming – January 13, 2009**Meeting Summary**

The main points drawn from this discussion were that rental housing is very scarce, especially affordable housing, and that less expensive housing would be available to ISL workers and families in Glenrock, Douglas, and Wright. However, those cities also have a shortage of affordable housing. Also, the Powder River Basin has good roads and the school capacity and retail establishments are sufficient for the present. Fire and police departments are adequately staffed. Medical and hospital facilities are able to provide good service. Additionally, the industry boom-bust cycles are typical, making it hard to maintain available and affordable housing. The population of Casper is about 53,000 (75,000 including suburbs) and the current economic downturn will likely make housing more affordable. Developers are currently building housing for both upper and lower income families.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Craig Collins, Casper Planning Department
Robin Mundell, Casper Planning Department

Follow-up Items

None

Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA), Casper, Wyoming – January 13, 2009**Meeting Summary**

Discussions centered around the impact of resource extraction, including ISL, on housing. The WCDA was able to provide extensive data on existing housing statewide, and future projections. The main points raised were that rental housing is scarce in the Powder River Basin and Great Divide Basin; single family housing tends to be out of the affordable range; those seeking to move to Wyoming from economically hard-hit areas have a difficult time selling their homes; and the Wyoming economy is doing very well compared to the nation as a whole. Most Moore Ranch and Nichols Ranch workers are expected to live in Casper, Gillette, and other smaller communities such as Wright. The level of healthcare, education, and commercial facilities is generally good. Rawlins would likely be the main base for Lost Creek employees (possibly Wamsutter). There is no office of state planning.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
David Haney, WCDA
Cheryl Gillam, WCDA

Follow-up Items

None

Lander Chamber of Commerce, Lander, Wyoming – January 13, 2009

Meeting Summary

Inquiries were made regarding housing and workforce. There is some limited housing available in Fremont County (Lander Area), but it's pricey. Jeffrey City may be a better bet as there are still houses there from the oil boom in the late 80s/early 90s. The thought was that there would be sufficient skilled labor available due to the slowdown in the oil industry.

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Chamber of Commerce Director
Chamber of Commerce Receptionist

Follow-up Items

None

Bureau of Land Management Field Office, Buffalo, Wyoming – January 14, 2009

Meeting Summary

BLM staff explained their responsibilities under NEPA and their review and approval process of Plans of Operations submitted by ISL applicants. BLM staff also provided details on the update to the Buffalo Resource Management Plan, in which they just completed the scoping process. Since no BLM lands are present on the Moore Ranch Project site, BLM staff is not likely to review that application. Regarding the Nichols Ranch Project, BLM staff will provide comments on NRC's environmental documents and request frequent communication with the NRC throughout the environmental review process. BLM staff sees the main issues for the Nichols Ranch Project to be related to cultural resources and tribal concerns since the Pumpkin Buttes was designated a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) in June 2007. The BLM is in the process of developing a PA for the TCP. BLM staff emphasized the importance of good construction of injection wells and did not seem concerned with CBM operations and ISL operations occurring simultaneously in the same area because of the large distances between CBM wells. BLM has prepared Plan of Development (POD) EISs and a 2003 EIS on CBM and natural gas, which have solid cumulative impacts analyses for the Powder River Basin. FWS staff discussed the locations of sage grouse core areas in the Powder River Basin, the possible need for avoidance of these areas, and the candidate conservation assurances program. FWS staff stated that additional information on sage grouse is present in the Northeast Wyoming Management Plan. FWS staff raised a concern over migratory birds, specifically related to the electrocution of raptors on power poles and they recommended buried power lines or aboveground lines conforming to the requirements set by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Brian Kuehl, Clark Group
Lori VanBuggenum, Clark Group
Buck Dumone, BLM
Jerry Queen, BLM
Clint Crago, BLM
Tom Bills, BLM
Paul Beels, BLM
Brad Rogers, FWS
Pete Ramirez, FWS

Follow-up Items

NRC to review BLM's POD EISs and 2003 EIS on CBM and natural gas to see if the cumulative impacts analyses can be incorporated into the NRC documents. NRC to also review the Northeast Wyoming Management Plan for sage grouse.

Department of Environmental Quality District 3 Office, Sheridan, Wyoming – January 14, 2009

Meeting Summary

DEQ staff explained their two tier review process of applications, which consists first of a completeness review and then a technical review (150 days to complete). Both the Moore Ranch and Nichols Ranch ISL applications have been through the completeness review and are undergoing the technical review with Moore Ranch to be completed first. DEQ staff's initial assessment of both applications is that additional information is necessary from the applicant and inconsistencies arise in both applications. DEQ staff's main concerns with both projects are cumulative impacts (whether ISL, CBM, and O&G can all occur simultaneously), groundwater quality resulting from unconfined aquifer conditions (effects on drawdown, ability to limit excursions, restoration), and underground injection well viability (which formation to drill into).

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Brian Kuehl, Clark Group
Lori VanBuggenum, Clark Group
Mark Rogaczewski, DEQ Land Quality Division District 3
Don Fischer, DEQ Water Quality Division
Glenn Mooney, DEQ Land Quality Division District 3

Follow-up Items

None

Department of Environmental Quality District Office, Lander, Wyoming – January 14, 2009**Meeting Summary**

A brief update was presented on the status of the GEIS and the EA for Lost Creek. The topic of requests for additional information (RAIs) was discussed. It was found that the DEQ, in addition to the list of RAIs submitted last summer on UR-Energy's application, was currently preparing a much larger list (200 in addition to the initial 45). The DEQ's primary concern is groundwater impact. The Water Quality Division (WQD) determines the class of use of an aquifer, but the EPA determines the exemption boundary. For deep well injection of wastes, the contact at the WQD identified was John Passehl. The DEQ is the agency that issues the actual mining permit, with the BLM concurring. DEQ, however, is also concerned with surface disturbance. If the total amount of disturbance is less than 5 acres, the DEQ issues a Drilling Notification (similar to the BLM's Notice). If the disturbance exceeds 5 acres, a License to Explore is issued (similar to the BLM's Plan of Operation). Bonding is also required by the DEQ and, in fact, the DEQ is the bond holder, even when BLM land is involved. For bond release, 2 years of successive growing seasons must occur after reclamation. Issues, besides groundwater that were raised during the meeting included the need to address solid waste disposal. This includes a complete characterization of the various waste streams, the disposal facilities intended to be used, and if there is to be any hazardous waste generated. The U.S. Department of Game & Fish (DGF) is concerned with the potential impacts to sage grouse. In particular, there appears to be a lek within the boundary of the Lost Creek site. There is a 1/4-mi exclusion area, as well as a 2-mi limited activity area surrounding each lek. The DGF also has an issue with the installation of overhead utility lines (as roosts for raptors). In addition to groundwater quality, groundwater drawdown is an issue. DEQ is asking the applicant to address potential drawdown outside the boundary of the site (up to 3 mi), and to identify users. The DEQ is also concerned with the fault running through the site, and if the potentiometric surface differs either side of it. Regional (outside the permit boundary) well data is also being asked of the applicant by the DEQ. The DEQ questions the need for such a large permit boundary if the ore body only occupies a portion of the site. A new requirement of the DEQ is the need for the applicant to submit data (including well, and GW data) for the first mine unit to operate at an ISL. This seems to be problematic, in that this information is not normally available until after the NRC issues its license. The DEQ is also requesting the applicant to submit additional cross-sections for the Lost Creek site. DEQ is also requesting a more detailed description of the hydrogeology of the site: thicknesses of the confining units, the multiple sands within the primary production zone in the Battle Spring Formation HJ unit, and deep well injection. Stability monitoring is required after uranium recovery is complete (quarterly monitoring for 12 months, then annually, thereafter).

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Amy Boyle, DEQ
Melissa Bautz, DEQ

Carrie Dobey, DGF

Follow-up Items

DEQ WQD to determine the class of aquifer for the HJ unit, as well as the appropriate monitoring well distribution.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, Wyoming – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

NRC provided a status of the GEIS, the environmental review process the NRC is undertaking, and proposed ISLs in Wyoming. There was more concern over legacy sites than the proposed new uranium recovery facilities in Wyoming. In particular, the conventional mill near Riverton was discussed because of the groundwater plume. While there are no ISL facilities proposed for the Wind River Reservation, it was told us that anytime a new facility is proposed, all the tribes in Wyoming should be notified. The names of two cultural resource contacts were given to us: Amanda White (Northern Arapaho) and Reed Tidzump (Eastern Shoshone). The counties within the state generally send letters to the tribes for concurrence on cultural matters. It was suggested that when cultural resource studies are performed, tribal elders be contacted so that items other than physical features (e.g., spiritual/sacred views) may be identified. The Wind River Reservation has its own environmental commissions (air, water, etc.).

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Ray Nation, BIA
Tony Pingree, BIA
Kelly Ferris, BIA
Trisha Cachelin, BIA
John Enos, Shoshone
Steve Babbitts, BIA
Kassel Weeks, WREQC
Don Aragon, WREQC

Follow-up Items

NRC to send copies of draft GEIS (CD) to BIA and Wind River Agency. NRC to send letters to Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes regarding the licensing of the Lost Creek project. The CD and letters were sent in February 2009.

Bureau of Land Management Field Office, Casper, Wyoming – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

NRC gave a status of the GEIS and BLM MOU. BLM explained the difference in the types of BLM land. Leasable land, also known as acquired land, is land that the US has bought back the mineral rights. This represents only a small portion of BLM lands. Locatable land is land that

was originally federal-owned, and represents most of BLM lands. BLM was concerned that the GEIS does not distinguish between the two types of land. BLM was pleased to hear that there is progress being made on the MOU, but has a concern about how field office personnel working jointly on a NEPA document with the NRC would be reimbursed for their effort. BLM was also questioning whether the state or field office would participate in the development of the MOU.

Meeting Participants

Alan Bjornsen, NRC
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Tom Foertsch, BLM
Patrick Moore, BLM

Follow-up Items

NRC to send copies of the proposed ISL Wyoming site map to the Casper Field Office and the State BLM Office. NRC sent the copies of the map in February 2009.

Buffalo Chamber of Commerce (COC), Buffalo, Wyoming – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

The COC Board raised the issues of impacts to wildlife (specifically to sage grouse) and socioeconomics (specifically housing capacity) in regards to the potential Nichols Ranch Project. The COC Board stated that Kaycee does not have the housing capacity and services that Buffalo has. The COC Board stated that the County school system has the capacity to handle additional students. RV parks and motels still have ample space in the county for workers who choose not to permanently relocate into the County. The COC Board emphasized that like most of the state, the county's population fluctuates with the industry cycles of booms and busts.

Meeting Participants

Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Margaret Dunfee, COC
Various members from the COC Board

Follow-up Items

None

Johnson County Commissioners, Buffalo, Wyoming – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

The County Commissioners raised the issues of impacts to socioeconomics, both positive and negative, in regards to the potential Nichols Ranch Project. Specifically, the County

Commissioners mentioned the shortage of housing in Kaycee, the shortage of housing for low-moderate income families in the County, and the poor conditions of Trabing Road (also known as Iragary Road), which is a likely commuter path from Buffalo and Kaycee to the Nichols Ranch Project site. Trabing Road has been heavily utilized by CBM operators and although it is a county-maintained road, the County does not have enough funding currently to upgrade the road. The County Commissioners requested that the path of transport for the yellowcake be described in the NRC's environmental document. We also discussed positive economic impacts from new ISL projects such as the creation of new jobs and the addition to tax base. The County Commissioners stated that emergency response services needed for the Nichols Ranch Project would come from either Buffalo or Kaycee. The County Planner stated that the only local permitting required of the applicant would be for a septic system leach field up to 2,000 gallons in size.

Meeting Participants

Irene Yu, NRC
Nancy Barker, VHB
Smokey Wildeman, Commissioner
Gerald Fink, Chairman
Rob Yingling, County Planner

Follow-up Items

None

Campbell County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC), Gillette, Wyoming –
January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

The discussion focused on the impact of resource extraction, including ISL, on housing, schools and other community facilities, and socioeconomics. The vacancy rate for rental housing has been close to zero for the last four years; 850 rental units in Gillette have recently been built and fully occupied. The local economy is mineral-based and has gone through boom and bust cycles which have discouraged investment in housing. Local government has extended water and sewer lines well beyond city limits to encourage development. Land is being annexed aggressively by the city as a spur to foster residential development. Two new elementary schools have been built and two more are planned.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Michael Surface, CCEDC
Susan Yerke, CCEDC
Brandi Beecher, CCEDC

Follow-up Items

None

Town of Wright, Wright, Wyoming – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

A new power plant is being built nearby. O&G extraction and coal mining are active in the vicinity. Almost 200 single family houses have just been built and the town has purchased 113 acres, some of which will be for housing; the land includes water service. It is hard to get developers to come out to a small town of under 5,000 people, although tax credits exist for rural development. There are several private apartments in the community and many employers are building motels and renting rooms to their workers. A new shopping center has been built and the town has one medical clinic. The junior and senior high schools have been combined and capacity is adequate.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Lyle Murdock, Wright Building Official

Follow-up Items

None

Converse County Planning Department Douglas, Wyoming – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

In discussing where workers from the Powder River Basin may live, Converse County Planning Department Douglas, Wyoming staff thought that the cities of Glenrock and Douglas would likely home bases for workers for the Nichols Ranch and Moore Ranch projects; Midwest and Wright were also mention as possibilities. Some trailer parks might have vacancies but rental apartments are scarce and expensive. There is the potential for new hotels/motels to be built. There are 130 zoned and platted lots for housing but they are without services. The state has a loan program for first-time home buyers. The current population is about 6,000 people, but the city could accommodate a total of 10,000. Schools are close to capacity in Douglas but Glenrock may have some room.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Forrest Neuerberg, CCPD
Paul Musselman, CCPD

Follow-up Items

None

Converse Area New Development Organization (CANDO) – January 15, 2009

Meeting Summary

CANDO deals primarily with workforce concerns, local economic development, business recruitment and training, and housing. Ranchers are seeking information about energy companies looking for leases on their property. There is a shortage of workers with uranium mining experience. Locally, there is limited housing and Nichols Ranch and Moore Ranch workers would likely face a 1.5 hour commute, which is typical for the area.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
Tracy Hamm, VHB
Joe Coyne, CANDO
Ed Werner, Consultant to CANDO

Follow-up Items

None

Follow-up Items

None

Converse Area New Development Organization (CANDO) – January 15, 2009**Meeting Summary**

CANDO deals primarily with workforce concerns, local economic development, business recruitment and training, and housing. Ranchers are seeking information about energy companies looking for leases on their property. There is a shortage of workers with uranium mining experience. Locally, there is limited housing and Nichols Ranch and Moore Ranch workers would likely face a 1.5 hour commute, which is typical for the area.

Meeting Participants

Behram Shroff, NRC
 Stewart Bland, Chesapeake Nuclear
 Tracy Hamm, VHB
 Joe Coyne, CANDO
 Ed Werner, Consultant to CANDO

Follow-up Items

None

ML090500544

OFC	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB	EPPAD/ERB
NAME	BShroff:dm	ABjornsen	IYu	AWalker-Smith	AKock
DATE	02/20/09	02/20/09	02/25/09	02/26/09	03/02/09

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