

June 17, 2009

Mr. Damien Miller
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eastern Idaho Field Office
4425 Burley Dr., Suite A
Chubbuck, ID 83202

Dear Mr. Miller:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES AND
CRITICAL HABITATS FOR THE PROPOSED AREVA EAGLE ROCK
ENRICHMENT FACILITY LOCATED IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY, IDAHO

Dear Mr. Miller:

On December 30, 2008, AREVA Enrichment Services (AES) submitted an environmental report (ER) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The ER is one part of an application for a license to authorize construction, operation, and decommissioning of a proposed uranium enrichment facility. The NRC staff is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed facility to be located near Idaho Falls, Idaho in Bonneville County. The facility, if licensed, would use a gas centrifuge based technology to enrich the isotope uranium-235 in uranium hexafluoride up to 5 percent by weight. The EIS will document the impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility.

NRC requests a list of threatened or endangered species or critical habitats within the action area for the proposed facility. The proposed AES parcel is approximately 1,700 hectares (4,200 acres). AES states that the facility footprint encompasses 381 hectares (941 acres) of the site for which construction, operation, and decommissioning activities will occur. The proposed site is situated within Bonneville County, Idaho, on the north side of U.S. Highway 20, about 113 km (70 miles) west of the Idaho/Wyoming State line. The coordinates for the center of the action area are 43 degrees, 35 minutes, 7.37 seconds North and longitude 112 degrees, 25 minutes, 28.71 seconds West.

We have enclosed additional background information relating to ecological resources on the site, including a map showing the action area, as it appears in the AES ER.

We intend to use the EIS process to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. After assessing information you provide, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 7 consultation process. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Gloria Kulesa of my staff at 301-415-5308.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Andrea Kock, 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.: 70-7015

- Enclosures:
1. Ecology Field Study Report Proposed Site for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility
 2. Ecology Field Study Report Proposed Site for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility – Fall 2008 Survey
 3. Sage Grouse Survey Report Proposed for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

We intend to use the EIS process to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. After assessing information you provide, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 7 consultation process. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Gloria Kulesa of my staff at 301-415-5308.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Andrea Kock, 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.: 70-7015

- Enclosures:
1. Ecology Field Study Report Proposed Site for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility
 2. Ecology Field Study Report Proposed Site for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility – Fall 2008 Survey
 3. Sage Grouse Survey Report Proposed for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

Distribution: LClark/OGC CSafford/OGC BReilly/NMSS THiltz/NMSS
 APowell/OCA DMcIntyre/OPA AKock/FSME RidsNmssOd
 DDorman/FCSS MBailey/FCSS LSilvious/NSIR Virgilio/OSTP
 TGody/RII MSheik/RII RHannah/RII JLedford/RII
 JWeil/OCA

ML091660541

OFC	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
NAME	MGeorge for GKulesa	AWalker-Smith	AKock
DATE	06/16/09	06/16../09	06/17/09

OFFICAL RECORD