

June 24, 2009

Mr. Paul Kjellander  
Office of Energy Resources  
322 East Front Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720

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. Kjellander:

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 information on the following items within the action area for the proposed facility, if available:

- Endangered or threatened species, or other species of concern to the state of Idaho, that are known to be or likely to be at the proposed AREVA site, and nearest known locations based on the element occurrence database. Enclosed is a preliminary list of species compiled from Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) county lists (plants) and the IDFG Snake River Basalts Ecological Section list (animals). Habitat on the site consists of sagebrush steppe, non-native grassland (primarily crested wheatgrass and cheatgrass), and irrigated crops.
- Nearest known lek sites (based on the element occurrence database), nesting habitat, brood-rearing habitat, and winter habitat for greater sage grouse, migratory status of the local population, the number of leks nears the site, and trends.
- Information on Sagebrush Reserves (location, size, species, management) or other sensitive or rare habitats in the project vicinity.
- Information on mule deer, pronghorn, and elk herds, including seasonal habitat (such as crucial winter habitat areas), local migration routes, and concerns such as population trends.
- Important migration routes for migratory birds.
- Maps or GIS shapefiles regarding species or habitats.
- Concerns of IDFG regarding potential impacts of the proposed project.

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. Special Status Plants and Species
2. Ecology Field Survey Report
3. Fall 2008 Survey
4. Sage Grouse Survey Report

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,

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. Special Status Plants and Species
2. Ecology Field Survey Report
3. Fall 2008 Survey
4. Sage Grouse Survey Report

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

**ML091740253**

<b>OFC</b>	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
<b>NAME</b>	MGeorge forGKulesa	AWalker-Smith	AKock
<b>DATE</b>	06/23/09	06/23//09	06/24./09

**OFFICAL RECORD**

## Idaho Special Status Plants and Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Earth lichen (*Catapyrenium congestum*)  
Gray willow (*Salix glauca*)  
Green spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum*)  
Iodine bush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*)  
Meadow milkvetch (*Astragalus diversifolius*)  
Payson's bladderpod (*Lesquerella paysonii*)  
Payson's milkvetch (*Astragalus paysonii*)  
Red glasswort (*Salicornia rubra*)  
Slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*)  
Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)  
Western Sedge (*Carex occidentalis*)

Utah valvata snail (*Valvata utahensis*)

Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*)

Ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)

Black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Blue grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)  
Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)  
California gull (*Larus californicus*)  
Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*)  
Franklin's gull (*Larus pipixcan*)  
Juniper titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*)  
Lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)  
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)  
Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*)  
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)  
Pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*)  
Sharp-tailed grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*)  
Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)  
Virginia's warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)  
White-faced ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)  
Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)

Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)  
Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)  
Great Basin ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mollis*)  
Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*)  
Idaho pocket gopher (*Thomomys idahoensis*)  
Little pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris*)  
Merriam's shrew (*Sorex merriami*)  
Pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*)  
Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*)  
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus/Plecotus townsendii*)  
Townsend's pocket gopher (*Thomomys townsendii*)  
Wyoming ground squirrel (*Spermophilus elegans*)