

# **NRC Coordination with Federal Agencies on Uranium Recovery Applications**

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# Guidance on Interactions with other Agencies

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- NRC guidance
- NEPA
- Recent Interactions
  - Targeted scoping
  - BLM
  - EPA
  - Forest Service
  - WYDEQ
  - Native American Tribes

## How NRC Interacts with other Federal Agencies

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- Scoping
- Consultation letters
- Telecons
- Informal information Sharing
- Cooperating agencies
  - MOUs
  - MOAs/PAs

# NRC/BLM MOU



- **BACKGROUND**

Concurrent NEPA reviews conducted by each agency on same project discovered during visits to BLM field offices in September 2008 to discuss the GEIS

- **NEED**

Numerous proposed new uranium recovery facilities located on BLM-administered land

# Purposes of the MOU

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- Provide an efficient means of fulfilling NEPA requirements
- Encourage routine communication
- Advance notice of agency actions
- Provide framework for exchange of data
- Establish roles and responsibilities

# Status of MOU

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- Draft MOU sent to BLM on January 26 2009
- Revised draft MOU submitted to BLM by NRC on May 20, 2009
- Meeting held June 10 to discuss feasibility of issuing one NEPA document
- Telecon scheduled June 29 to discuss final comments
- Letters to BLM field offices

# Progress

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- Letters to BLM field offices
- Share future agency actions
- Routine communication with field offices
- MOU in final stages
  - Telecon June 30 2009

# NRC/BLM MOU CONTENTS

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- PURPOSE
- LEGAL AUTHORITIES
- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- COORDINATION
  - Advance notice of uranium recovery license applications/Plans of Operation
  - Exchange data and information
  - Steering Committee
  - Lead/Cooperating Agency Status
  - NEPA Implementation and Review Process
  - Schedules and Interagency Communication



# Challenges

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- Different timelines
- Different purpose and need/alternatives
- Agency resources
- Resource areas reviewed
- Different agency roles
- Different procedures for completing documents

## Expected Outcome

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- Increase communication
- Advance notice of expected actions
- Sharing of early drafts of NEPA documents
- Efficiencies in NEPA process
- Continue to explore possibility of only one NEPA document

# Next Steps

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- Finalize BLM/NRC MOU
- Protocol established to delineate NRC roles and responsibilities regarding interacting with agencies
- Continue to be proactive in engaging other federal agencies

# Takeaways

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- NRC is committed to open communication with other agencies.
- The impacts of differences in the roles and responsibilities, and timelines of agencies must be recognized
- NRC and BLM remain committed to coordination and completion of an MOU
- Information will continue to be shared where possible to promote efficiencies