

September 16, 2009

Chairman Alonzo A. Cohy  
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
P.O. Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF AN EXEMPTION REQUEST FROM U.S. NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION'S (NRC) REGULATED ACTIONS SUBMITTED  
BY AREVA ENRICHMENT SERVICES (AES)

Dear Chairman Cohy:

On July 29, 2009, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff sent a letter to the office of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. My staff requested input from the tribe on identifying any cultural or historic properties that may be affected by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed facility. We look forward to receiving your written feedback soon and will incorporate the details of your response within our environmental impact statement (EIS).

In addition, we want to communicate pertinent and new information to your office. On June 17, 2009, AREVA Enrichment Services (AES) requested an exemption that would allow them to commence certain activities prior to NRC's completion of its environmental review under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51 (10 CFR 51) and the NRC's issuance of a Materials License for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility under 10 CFR 70.

NRC's approval of the exemption would permit AES to undertake the following list of actions. These actions do not affect radiological health and safety or common defense and security.

- Clearing, Grading and Erosion Control
- Excavation, Including Rock Blasting and Removal
- Construction of Storm Water Detention Pond, Highway Access and Site Roads
- Installation of Utilities, Storage Tanks and Fences
- Installation of Parking Areas, Construction Buildings, Offices, Warehouses and Guardhouses.

If approved, the exemption would allow AREVA to commence the above pre-construction activities before NRC completes its licensing determination. AREVA plans on performing this pre-construction work in September 2010. The approval to perform pre-construction does not equate to approval of a license to construct, operate and decommission a facility. AREVA assumes the risk of completing these activities and then not receiving a license to construct and operate the facility.

The pre-construction activities of both the environmental impacts above and construction of the facility will be considered in NRC's environmental impact statement which will be issued after pre-construction activities begin. We will continue to communicate with you regarding important issues for NRC to consider on assessing the environmental impacts of these pre-construction and construction activities

NRC anticipates completing its review of the exemption request by mid December 2009. If approved, AES will supplement its Environmental Report to distinguish between the environmental impacts of the construction activities covered by the exemption and construction activities which will not be undertaken until after issuance of a license by the NRC. This supplement will allow NRC staff to consider the impacts of pre-construction in its cumulative impact analysis within the EIS.

Please respond by October 15, 2009 with any comments or concerns that you may have on this subject. If you have any questions or comments with regard to this request from AES, or need any additional information, please contact Mathews George of my staff on 301-415-7065.

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

cc:  
Willie Preacher  
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Stan Day  
AES Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

George A Harper, P.E.  
AES Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

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<b>OFC</b>	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
<b>NAME</b>	MGeorge	AWalker-Smith	A. Kock
<b>DATE</b>	09/08/09	0911/09	09/16/09

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