

October 2, 2009

Mr. Keith Dunbar  
National Park Service  
Chief of Park Planning  
and Environmental Compliance  
909 First Avenue,  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Dunbar:

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 20 miles west of 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.

The proposed location for the facility is due north of the Hell's Half Acre National Natural Landmark. 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 on the north side of U.S. Highway 20. 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. The project area is currently mixed used for open range land and agriculture.

The Hell's Half Acre National Natural Landmark is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a Wildlife Study Area. The BLM has been contacted by both the NRC and AES concerning the project. The NRC wants to provide the National Park Service with an opportunity to comment on the abovementioned project. The NRC is requesting the views of your office on any impacts that may be caused by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed facility. After assessing information you provide, we will determine if any additional actions or mitigation actions are necessary.

We would like a response from your office by **Oct 31, 2009**, if possible. If you have any questions or comments with regard to this, 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

We would like a response from your office by **Oct 31, 2009**, if possible. If you have any questions or comments with regard to this, or need any additional information, please contact Mathews George of my staff on 301-415-7065.

Sincerely,

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Docket No.: 70-7015

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<b>OFC</b>	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP
<b>NAME</b>	MGeorge	AWalker-Smith	A. Kock
<b>DATE</b>	09/30/09	09/30/09	10/02/09

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