

February 19, 2010

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

SUBJECT: CONTINUING CONSULTATION UNDER THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED AREVA EAGLE ROCK ENRICHMENT FACILITY

Dear Chairman Cohy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) previously contacted you by letter dated July 29, 2009, informing you of the AREVA Enrichment Services LLC (AES) submittal of an application to NRC for a license to construct, operate, and decommission a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Bonneville County, Idaho, and NRC's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of its licensing action for the facility. The proposed facility, the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility (EREF), would be located about 20 miles west of Idaho Falls. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the scope of the project has been modified to include the construction and operation of an electrical transmission line and associated structures needed to power the proposed EREF.

On January 29, 2010, AES submitted supplemental information to NRC for the construction and operation of a proposed transmission line, an electrical substation, and substation upgrades. The locations of the transmission line and substations are shown in the January 29, 2010, submittal, a copy of which is enclosed. Also, AES commissioned an archeological survey of the area of potential effect (APE) associated with the transmission line route; the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer has a copy of the survey report. As discussed in AES' January 29, 2010, submittal, no historic properties were identified in the APE of the proposed transmission line project. NRC's EIS for the proposed EREF will include a discussion of the impacts associated with the construction and operation of this transmission line project. Likewise, NRC's Section 106 consultations for the EREF project will expand to include cultural resources along the proposed transmission line right-of-way.

The new transmission line and associated structures would be located entirely on private land within Bonneville County. Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), a division of PacifiCorp, will be the builder, owner, and operator. The transmission line would originate from the existing RMP Bonneville Substation and extend in a general westward direction to the new point of service, the Twin Buttes Substation on the proposed EREF site. Beginning at the Bonneville Substation, the proposed transmission line route is west along the county road (West 65 North Street) to the existing RMP Kettle Substation, a distance of approximately 14.5 kilometers (9 miles), continuing west to the eastern portion of the EREF site, a distance of approximately 1.2 kilometer (0.75 mile), then north within the EREF site to its northern end, then west and south to the new RMP Twin Buttes Substation, for a distance of approximately 6.4 kilometers (4 miles). The area being affected by the transmission line is approximately 84 hectares (208 acres).

A. Cohy

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As noted in our earlier letter, NRC intends to use the EIS process to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as described in 36 CFR Part 800.8. As required by 36 CFR 800.4(a), NRC is requesting the views of the tribes on any further actions necessary to identify historic properties that may be affected by the construction and operation of the proposed transmission line and associated structures. After assessing information you provide, we will determine any additional actions that are necessary to comply with the Section 106 consultation process.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions regarding the project, or need additional information, please contact Stephen Lemont, of my staff at 301-415-5163 or Stephen.Lemont@nrc.gov.

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

Enclosure: As stated

Docket No: 70-7015

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Andrea Kock, Chief
 Environmental Review Branch
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 and Performance Assessment Directorate
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