

March 5, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Thomas Hiltz, Chief  
Advanced Fuel Cycle, Enrichment,  
and Uranium Conversion Branch  
Special Projects and Technical  
Support Directorate  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Matt Bartlett, Project Manager **/RA/**  
Advanced Fuel Cycle, Enrichment,  
and Uranium Conversion Branch  
Special Projects and Technical  
Support Directorate  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
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SUBJECT: JANUARY 14, 2010, PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING SUMMARY:  
INTERNATIONAL ISOTOPEES, INC., FLUORINE EXTRACTION  
AND DEPLETED URANIUM DECONVERSION FACILITY  
MEETING ON THE LICENSING PROCESS

On January 14, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff conducted a public meeting in Hobbs, New Mexico, to discuss its licensing process for the proposed International Isotopes, Inc. (INIS), Fluorine Extraction and Depleted Uranium Deconversion Facility.

I am enclosing the meeting summary for your use. This summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Enclosure: INIS Public Outreach Meeting Summary

Docket No.: 40-9086

CONTACT: Matt Bartlett, NMSS/FCSS  
(301) 492-3119

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<b>OFC</b>	AFCB	AFCB	AFCB
<b>NAME</b>	Matt Bartlett	THristopoulos	THiltz
<b>DATE</b>	03/01/10	03/05/10	03/05/10

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

**Summary of**  
**AREVA NC Public Meeting on the Licensing Process**

**DATE**            January 14, 2009

**PLACE**            Lea County Events Center  
                         Hobbs, New Mexico

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) licensing process for the International Isotopes, Inc., (INIS) Fluorine Extraction and Depleted Uranium Deconversion Facility (IIFP).

**DISCUSSION**

Prior to the formal presentations, the NRC held an open house in which staff were available to informally discuss the project with the public. The participating NRC representatives were Mr. Mike Tschiltz, Mr. Thomas Hiltz, Mr. Brian Smith, Mr. Jay Henson, Dr. Matt Bartlett, Ms. Johari Moore, Mr. Mike Clark, Mr. Bob Trojanowski, Mr. Roger Hannah, and Mr. Matt Bernard. Handouts of the NRC application review process ([ML100270170](#)) and the NRC slides ([ML100270155](#)) were provided at the meeting and are available on the [Agencywide Document Access Management System](#) (ADAMS).

Following the open house, Mr. Hiltz welcomed the crowd of over 100 people and introduced the NRC staff. Mr. Hiltz discussed the NRC's overall mission and stated that the NRC is an independent agency responsible for ensuring the protection of public and worker health and safety in the commercial use of radioactive materials. Mr. Hiltz summarized the review process which involves both a safety review and an environmental review. The NRC projects that the review processes will take between 18 and 24 months. The schedule may potentially be impacted by several factors, including budget, quality of the application, timeliness of responses from the applicant, and the possibility of a contested hearing.

Dr. Matt Bartlett presented the NRC's licensing process for uranium enrichment facilities. INIS's proposed deconversion plant will be located in Lea County, New Mexico, at a site about 14 miles west of Hobbs, New Mexico. INIS plans to deconvert depleted uranium hexafluoride into commercially resalable fluoride products and depleted uranium oxides, for disposal. The NRC will perform a technical review of the application to ensure it meets NRC's health and safety requirements as found in the regulations in Title 10, Parts 40, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR). By regulation, construction would not begin until the NRC issues a license for construction and operation.

Ms. Johari Moore provided information on the NRC's process for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS), as presented in Title 10 Part 51, of the 10 CFR. She explained that the EIS is intended to describe potential environmental impacts of proposed federal actions. Public input is an important part of the scoping process. Once the NRC accepts the application for a technical review, the NRC will conduct a public meeting in Hobbs to obtain public input on areas that should be included in the scope of the environmental evaluation. After completion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a draft EIS. The public will be invited to comment on the draft EIS and a public meeting will be scheduled

Enclosure

to obtain public comments. Following consideration of comments on the draft EIS, the NRC staff will prepare a final EIS.

The meeting was then opened for questions and comments from the public. The comments and questions period lasted about 1 and 1/2 hours. Most of the comments were supportive of the INIS proposed facility. Several questions were asked about the final disposal of the depleted uranium oxide waste. The staff indicated INIS plans to ship the wastes to a licensed low level waste disposal facility.

After the public comments, the NRC staff provided contact information for the project managers and provided web site addresses for obtaining further information on the INIS application and uranium enrichment. This information is available on the meeting slide presentations. For additional information please contact the licensing project manager Matt Bartlett via email at [matthew.bartlett@nrc.gov](mailto:matthew.bartlett@nrc.gov) or via phone at 301-492-3119.

### REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

A flow chart of the Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (FCSS) review process was distributed at the public meeting. In addition, a printout of the slide presentation was provided. Each of these documents is available in ADAMS.

1. NRC Handout on FCSS Safety Review for the January 14, 2010, INIS Public Meeting. ([ML100270170](#))
2. NRC Slide Presentation for the January 14, 2010, INIS Public Meeting, INIS Fluorine Extraction and Depleted Uranium Deconversion Plant, Facility Licensing. ([ML100270155](#))

The following stakeholders provide written comments during the public outreach meeting.

3. Economic Development Corporation of Lea County Board of Directors ([ML100290361](#))
4. Hobbs, NM City Commissioner ([ML100290356](#))
5. State Senator Leavell ([ML100290357](#))
6. Lea County Board of Commissioners ([ML100290358](#))
7. U.S. Representative Teague ([ML100290359](#))
8. Hobbs, NM Mayor's Office ([ML100290360](#))