

July 2, 2010

Mr. Wally Murphy, Field Supervisor  
New Mexico Ecological Service Field Office  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
2105 Osuna NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED OR  
THREATENED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT FOR INTERNATIONAL  
ISOTOPES FLUORINE PRODUCTS, INC. PROPOSED FLUORINE  
EXTRACTION PROCESS & DEPLETED URANIUM DE-CONVERSION PLANT

Dear Mr. Murphy:

International Isotopes Fluorine Products, Inc. (IIFP), a wholly owned subsidiary of International Isotopes, Inc. (INIS), has submitted a license application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to construct, operate, and decommission a proposed uranium processing facility. The facility is proposed to be located within a 640-acre section near Hobbs, New Mexico in Lea County (see enclosed map), of which approximately 40 acres would be developed. The 40-acre site would be fenced in and contain process-related buildings and an administrative office building. The proposed facility would provide services to the uranium enrichment industry for de-conversion of depleted uranium hexafluoride ( $\text{DUF}_6$ ) into uranium oxides for long-term stable disposal. The proposed facility would also produce high-purity inorganic fluorides for applications in the electronic, solar panel, and semiconductor markets and anhydrous hydrofluoric acid for various industrial applications.

As established in Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed action. The EIS will include an analysis of potential impacts to endangered or threatened species and critical habitat in the action area. Please provide information that you may have regarding the presence of endangered or threatened species and critical habitat in the action area. After analyzing all the information collected, the NRC will follow up with your office regarding compliance with the Section 7 consultation process.

We would also like to invite you to attend a public meeting that we will be holding on Thursday, July 29, 2010, at the Lea County Event Center, 5101 Lovington Highway in Hobbs, New Mexico, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit comments from stakeholders and members of the public on the scope of the EIS review.

The IIFP license application is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The accession number for the license application is ML100630502. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or encounter problems should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-3747, or by e-mail at [pdf@nrc.gov](mailto:pdf@nrc.gov).

Please submit any comments you may have to offer on the environmental review within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Asimios Malliakos of my staff by telephone at 301-415-6458 or by email at [Asimios.Malliakos@nrc.gov](mailto:Asimios.Malliakos@nrc.gov). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Diana Diaz-Toro, Branch Chief  
Environmental Review Branch A  
Environmental Protection and Performance  
Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure:  
Figure 1, Proposed IIFP Site  
Location

Docket No.: 40-9086

W. Murphy

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Sincerely,

Diana Diaz-Toro, Branch Chief  
Environmental Review Branch A  
Environmental Protection and Performance  
Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure:  
Figure 1, Proposed IIFP Site  
Location

Docket No.: 40-9086

**IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO ATTACHED LIST**

DISTRIBUTION:

M. Bartlett

**ML101160029**

<b>OFC</b>	EPPAD	EPPAD	EPPAD
<b>NAME</b>	JMoore	AWalker-Smith	DDiaz-Toro
<b>DATE</b>	04/26/10	04 /26/10	07/02/10

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Mr. Tod Stevenson, Director  
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504