

**Notes from NRC/BLM Meeting**  
**11:00 am, Thu, 02/05/2009**  
**NRC HQ – TWFN**

**Attendees**

Mitchell Leverette – BLM  
Adam Merrill – BLM  
Rick Deery – BLM  
Patty Bubar – NRC  
Andrea Kock – NRC  
Steve Cohen – NRC  
Joan Olmstead – NRC  
Alan Bjornsen – NRC

**Notes:**

- Draft MOU will need additional review by BLM solicitors
  - BLM concerned with FOIAs- draft material may be releasable under BLM FOIA policies
  - BLM may not be able to meet the 30 day time frame for providing comments on an EA
- BLM Field Offices will be lead on uranium recovery projects
- Planning for Upcoming reviews
  - BLM has not had the ability to plan in order to secure resources for the expected applications coming in the next several years Uranium personnel are in short supply
  - Soon, District Offices will be in place, so that there would be 3 tiers of BLM coordination for each state
  - NRC will expand the table of Potential ISL Facilities to include other states
- ~~Most BLM personnel reside in Nevada~~
- ~~BLM needs to plan their resources~~
  - BLM would like to be notified by NRC as soon as an application is received (before it has undergone acceptance) so that adequate resources can be assigned
- ~~BLM is concerned about being informed (receiving information in a timely fashion)~~
- Overlap of agency processes
  - BLM conducts NEPA reviews for a Plan of Operation (POO)
  - If surface disturbance exceeds 5 acres, an EA is prepared
  - If surface disturbance exceeds 640 acres, an EIS is prepared (although an EIS may be prepared for disturbances <640 acres)
  - It seemed that BLM would accept NRC's EA for an ISL as their POO given the issues covered under NRC's EA; however, further discussion on this topic involving NRC and BLM OGC is needed given that BLM issues and EIS and NRC issues and EA. In addition, timing of the NRC and BLM Eas/EISs is needed to determine where the processes intersect
  - This would work for the ISL sites that have been started prior to the MOU being signed
  - BLM would issue a DNA (Determination of NEPA Analysis) for those cases
- ~~BLM Field Offices are supervised by the State Office~~
- Pre-Construction activities

- NRC explained that licensees may request an exemption to expand the definition of preconstruction such that BLM would issue an EA before NRC. IN such cases, NRC would be a cooperating agency on BLM's EA.
- ~~Next meeting between NRC and BLM needs to involve the attorneys and the NEPA specialists~~
- Next Steps
  - BLM will organize a meeting at BLM's HQs in DC, and would also involve discussions on the GEIS and Split Estate issues
  - BLM will coordinate and set the agenda for the meeting
- Actions
  - NRC will forward BLM NUREG 1748-Done
  - NRC will forward BLM the schedule of anticipated licenses- Done
  - BLM to schedule follow up meeting and develop agenda
  - NRC revise MOU to include timing of notifications to BLM when license application is received and include discussion of how split estate properties would be assessed in EAs
  - NRC update table of expected applications to reflect which sites are on BLM land and forward to BLM

## PROPOSED URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITIES IN WYOMING AND ASSOCIATED BLM FIELD OFFICES

Site Name	Owner/Applicant	Buffalo	Casper	Lander	Rawlins	Newcastle	Application Expected/Rec'd
Christiansen Ranch	Cogema	Re-Start					Apr-07
Moore Ranch	Uranium One	New					Oct-09
Lost Creek	Lost Creek ISR, LLC			New	New		Mar-09
JAB and Antelope	Uranium One			New			Sep-09
Nichols and Hank	Uranerz Energy	New					Dec-09
Lost Creek	Lost Creek ISR, LLC			Expansion	Expansion		TBD
Sweetwater (Resin Elution)	Kennecott Uranium				Expansion		Jan-10
Lost Soldier	UR Energy				New		TBD
Ludeman	Uranium One		New				Mar-09
Smith-Highland	PRI		Expansion				Mar-09
Collins Draw	Uranerz Energy	New					TBD
Allemand-Ross	Uranium One	New	New				Sep-09
West Alkali Creek	Wild Horse Energy			New			Dec-10
Ruby Ranch	PRI	New					Oct-11
Reno Creek	Strathmore Minerals			New			Mar-11
Sweetwater (ISL & Conv)	Wild Horse Energy				New		May-11
Sky	Strathmore Minerals			New			Sep-11
Gas Hills (Conv)	PRI		Expansion	Expansion			Oct-11
Dewey Terrace	Powertech Uranium					New	TBD
Aladdin						New	TBD
North Butte	PRI	Expansion					TBD

## Proposed Uranium Recovery Facilities in NE, SD, NM, AZ, NV

Site Name	Owner/Applicant	Newcastle (WY)	Rio Puerco (NM)	Carson City (NV)	Kingman/Lake Havasu (AZ)	Application Expected/Rec'd
North Trend (NE)	Cameco - Crow butte Resources, Inc.	ISL Expansion				Jun-09
Crow Butte (NE)	Cameco - Crow Butte Resources, Inc.	Plant Upgrade				Compl 12/07
Marsland (NE)	Cameco - Crow Butte Resources, Inc.	ISL Expansion				Jun-09
Dewey-Burdock (SD)	Powertech Uranium Corporation	ISL New				Feb-09
Grants Ridge (NM)	Uranium Energy Corporation		Heap Leach New			Jul-09
Marquez (NM)	Neutron Energy		Conventional New			Dec-09
Mt. Taylor (NM)	Rio Grande Resources		Conventional New			Jan-09
Roca Honda (NM)	Strathmore Minerals Corporation		Conventional New			Sep-09
Apex Mill (NV)	Uranium King Corporation			Conventional New		Jun-09
Yavapai County (AZ)	Concentric				Conventional New	Oct-09

**Interagency Interactions on Uranium Recovery Environmental Reviews.** NRC staff has initiated coordination with federal and state agencies involved with environmental reviews of uranium recovery applications.

-On March 4, NRC staff held a conference call with the National Program Leader for hard rock mining at the U.S. Forest Service. The purpose of the call was to discuss how to implement efficiencies in environmental reviews and to strengthen coordination with the Forest Service during the environmental review process for uranium recovery applications. During the call, the NRC staff provided information on the concurrent safety and environmental reviews that are conducted when an application is accepted and the NRC's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Forest Service provided NRC staff with a better understanding of the organizational structure of the Forest Service and their responsibilities under NEPA.

-On March 6 and 9, the NRC held conference calls with the State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Land Quality Division to discuss DEQ's request for early coordination on the site-specific environmental reviews for in-situ recovery applications in Wyoming. The State has expressed an interest in developing an MOU with NRC on the site-specific environmental reviews to be conducted for uranium recovery applications. Both NRC and the DEQ agreed that early and frequent interactions with the state regarding these environmental reviews would be beneficial. FSME staff are coordinating with OGC to determine the appropriate vehicle to accommodate the State's request for early interactions.

- On February 5, FSME staff met with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss BLM comments on a draft of an MOU between the NRC and the BLM on environmental reviews for uranium recovery license applications. NRC and BLM discussed the process and content for their environmental reviews, the schedule for providing comments to NRC on environmental assessments, roles and responsibilities of each party, and BLM requirements for release of draft information provided by NRC. BLM will schedule a follow up meeting to discuss the extent to which the environmental evaluations will be adopted by each agency and to finalize the MOU.