

Bjornsen, Alan

From: Alan Bjornsen - *FSME*
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2009 10:31 AM
To: 'Ed_Heffern@blm.gov'
Cc: 'dmcken@state.wy.us'; Patrice Bubar; Andrea Kock; Irene Yu
Subject: Letters to BLM WY Offices
Attachments: Ltr to WY Off_final_05_18.doc; Prop UR Facil in WY_NE (05_09).xls; wyoming11x17.pdf

Ed,

By request of Patty Bubar, I am attaching the electronic version of the package that was sent out last week. It includes the letter that was sent to each of the five field area offices involved with uranium recovery, the three district offices that oversee the field offices, and the Wyoming State Office. Also included is the current (as of 05/13/09) list of expected uranium recovery applications (with corresponding field office designation) and an updated map of Wyoming, showing the locations of the proposed facilities.

I trust this helps answer any questions you have on this matter. If you do have additional questions, or require further explanation of this submittal, feel free to contact me, directly. Thank you.

Alan B. Bjornsen

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May 18, 2009

Mr. Patrick Madigan, Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
1300 North Third Street
P.O. Box 2407
Rawlins, WY 82301-2407

SUBJECT: COORDINATION BETWEEN THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND
THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR IN-SITU RECOVERY
OF URANIUM AND STATUS OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Dear Mr. Madigan:

This letter is to inform you of the: (1) status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for providing for a cooperative working relationship on uranium recovery and processing facilities; and (2) the current level of coordination with various BLM offices and the NRC.

In September 2008, NRC staff made visits to five BLM field offices in Wyoming regarding the *Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for In-Situ Leach Uranium Recovery* (NUREG-1910), and potential uranium recovery sites within the State (refer to enclosures). During the visits it was discovered that both agencies required a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis as part of approving activities within their jurisdiction involving uranium recovery projects, with much of the analysis being similar, or redundant. As a result, several of the offices concurred that it would be prudent from an efficiency standpoint that the agencies share information, to the extent practicable, when addressing the resources and potential impacts of these projects. With that in mind, NRC staff initiated dialogue with BLM Headquarters (HQ) to begin drafting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the BLM and NRC.

In the ensuing months, a number of meetings have taken place between the agencies, and several drafts of the MOU have been developed. The latest draft (April 2009) is a high-level document that addresses, principally, a framework for coordination between the agencies, the authorities of each agency, and the roles and responsibilities of each agency. The NRC and BLM HQ are moving forward towards finalizing the MOU and forming a cooperative framework in support of common goals and objectives in the development of uranium recovery facilities. As cooperation is the primary issue, NRC recognizes that routine communication is essential, especially with the BLM field offices. The need for regular correspondence and exchanges of information, advance notice of agency actions (such as applications for source material licenses and Plans of Operations), negotiation of schedules, and delineation of responsibilities in fulfilling the requirements of NEPA, are imperative to the functioning of the MOU. During the time the

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MOU has been in development, NRC Environmental Project Managers for *in situ* uranium recovery facilities in Wyoming that are undergoing technical review for license application have been in communication with the various field office personnel, exchanging information on project schedules and project-specific information.

The NRC is committed to providing the BLM with scheduling information for its environmental review, draft copies of its NEPA documents, and other information the BLM may consider useful in their review of Plans of Operation. In return, the NRC would expect to receive from the BLM notification of when a Plan of Operation is received, and the support in areas where the BLM has expertise. Though it may not always be possible for only one NEPA document to be prepared, it is in the interest of both agencies to improve communications, share expertise and information, and (in particular) improve efficiencies in the coordination and preparation of its NEPA documents for the approval of uranium recovery and processing facilities.

In the meantime, while the MOU is being prepared, the NRC staff continues to communicate with the Wyoming BLM Field Offices for uranium recovery and processing facilities that involve BLM-administered land and/or federal mineral estates. If you have any questions about this letter, its attachments, or the development of the MOU, you may contact Alan B. Bjornsen at (301) 415-1195, or at Alan.Bjornsen@nrc.gov.

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 document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrice M. Bubar, Deputy Director
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosures:

1. Map of State of Wyoming
2. Table of In-Situ Recovery Sites

cc: See next page

**IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO: See
attached list
ML091270816**

Ms. Viola Hillman, Manager
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Newcastle, WY 82701-2968

Mr. Joel Meyer, Manager
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Casper Field Office
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Mr. Duane Spencer, Manager
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Buffalo Field Office
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Mr. Jim Cagney, Manager
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Service List

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Ms. Stephanie Connolly, Manager
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Mr. Eddie Bateson, Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
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Mr. Ed Heffern
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
Branch of Solid Minerals
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**PROPOSED URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITIES IN WYOMING/NEBRASKA 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 (Energy Metals Corporation)	New					Oct-07
Lost Creek	Lost Creek ISR, LLC				New		Mar-08
JAB and Antelope	Uranium One (Energy Metals Corporation)			New			Sep-08
Nichols and Hank	Uranerz Energy	New					Dec-07
Lost Creek	Lost Creek ISR, LLC				Expansion		Nov-09
Lost Soldier	UR Energy				New		Nov-09
Ludeman	Uranium One (Energy Metals Corporation)		New				May-09
Smith-Highland	Cameco (Power Resources, Inc.)		Expansion				TBD
Allemand-Ross	Uranium One (Energy Metals Corporation)	New	New				Dec-09
Reno Creek	Strathmore Minerals Corporation	New					Mar-11
West Alkali Creek	Wild Horse Energy			New			Dec-10
Ruby Ranch	Cameco (Power Resources, Inc.)	Expansion					Oct-11
Sweetwater (ISL & Conv)	Wild Horse Energy				New		May-11
North Trend (NE)	Cameco (Crow Butte Resources, Inc.)					Expansion	Jun-07
Three Crow NE)	Cameco (Crow Butte Resources, Inc.)					Expansion	Mar-10
Gas Hills	Strathmore Minerals Corporation			New			Oct-11
Marsland (NE)	Cameco (Crow Butte Resources, Inc.)					Expansion	Sep-12

