

July 14, 2010

Ms. Wendy Reynolds
Upper Snake Field Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Upper Snake Field Office
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON
THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
AREVA ENRICHMENT SERVICES LLC EAGLE ROCK ENRICHMENT
FACILITY IN BONNEVILLE COUNTY, IDAHO

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by AREVA Enrichment Services LLC (AES) for a license to construct, operate, and decommission a uranium enrichment facility near Idaho Falls in Bonneville County, Idaho. The proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility (EREF), if licensed, would use a gas centrifuge process to enrich uranium-235 isotope found in natural uranium to concentrations up to 5 percent by weight. The enriched uranium would be used to manufacture nuclear fuel for commercial nuclear power reactors.

As part of the review of the application, the NRC has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (NUREG-1945). The Draft EIS includes an analysis of relevant environmental issues, and documents the NRC staff's preliminary determination regarding the environmental impacts from the preconstruction (e.g., site preparation), construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed uranium enrichment facility. Many of the activities required to build a uranium enrichment facility do not fall within NRC's regulatory authority and, therefore, are not "construction" as defined by the NRC. Such activities are referred to as "preconstruction" activities in Title 10 of the *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (10CFR) 51.45(c). The proposed 161-kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line required to provide power to the proposed EREF also falls under this category.

The NRC staff is forwarding the Draft EIS to you for your review and comment. Your comments will be addressed in the Final EIS. Please provide any information or comments on the enclosed Draft EIS that you consider appropriate under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, under which the Draft EIS has been prepared, during the comment period that ends on Monday, September 13, 2010. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to EagleRock.EIS@nrc.gov.

The NRC staff plans to hold a public meeting to discuss the contents of the Draft EIS on Thursday, August 12, 2010, at the Red Lion Hotel on the Falls Convention Center, 475 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402. The meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m. The meeting will be transcribed and will include the following agenda items: (1) a brief presentation of NRC's roles and responsibilities and the licensing process, (2) a presentation summarizing the contents of the Draft EIS, and (3) an opportunity for interested government agencies, tribal governments, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the Draft EIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions in an open house forum one hour before the start of the meeting, during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members. You and your staff are invited to attend.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Stephen Lemont, Senior Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-5163, or by e-mail at Stephen.Lemont@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Diana Diaz-Toro, 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

Docket No.: 70-7015

Enclosure:
Draft EIS

cc w/o enclosure: See next page

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Sincerely,

Diana Diaz-Toro, Chief
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cc w/o enclosure:

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