

Summary
**Proposed International Isotopes Fluorine Products, Inc. Fluorine
Extraction Process and Depleted Uranium De-conversion Site Visit,
Meetings with Local Government Officials, and
Public Scoping Meeting**

International Isotopes Fluorine Products, Inc. (IIFP) Site Visit

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, Matthew Bartlett, NRC
Richard Heimbach, Straughan
Steve Connor, Tetra Tech
Steve Laflin, John Miller, Donnie Chumbler, Tommy Thompson, IIFP

Summary:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a site visit of the IIFP proposed facility. The plant will be located in a 640-acre section (Section 27) of southeast New Mexico. The site lies along the north side of U.S. Highways 62/180 (U.S. 62/180) and the east side of New Mexico Highway 483 (NM 483). The NRC staff observed the area surrounding the site including, but not limited to, nearby roads, buildings, infrastructure, utilities, and the site's vegetation and terrain. The land use around the proposed site consists mostly of oil and gas industries. Three power plants are visible on the horizon, the Xcel Energy Cunningham Plant, the Colorado Energy plant owned by Xcel Energy and Lea Power Partners, but operated by Colorado Energy Management, LLC, and the Maddox plant owned by Xcel Energy. No new development was observed in the area surrounding the proposed site.

There are 230 kV transmission lines running down NM 483, as well as 230 kV lines running across Section 27 (but not across the 40-acre proposed facility). There are also several gas lines within Section 27, but most do not cross the proposed 40-acre facility location.

The applicant also identified the approximate locations of the four corners of the 40-acre tract that would contain the facility (within the 640-acres). Two lowlands were observed on the site with some standing water, but it was not entirely clear if these depressions would be within the 40-acre facility fence. No other surface water was observed on Section 27, but the section contains an intermittent swale south of the proposed 40-acre site.

The applicant briefly discussed the status of the land transfer from the State of New Mexico to INIS.

Enclosure

Following the site tour, the staff met with the applicant. Topics discussed regarding the environmental review included:

- The monitoring program discussed in Chapter 6 of the environmental report
- Process chemicals including the hydrogen required for conversion of DUF_6 to DUF_4 , which will be manufactured onsite
- Receipt and transfer of DUF_6 cylinders
- Waste management including the different types of gaseous and solid wastes that the proposed facility will generate
- Use of storm water runoff (collected in a basin) and waste water (gray water, tertiary treated sanitary waste, and treated process water) from the proposed facility for landscaping and to irrigate a 2.6 acre tree farm
- Historic and cultural impacts including a cultural resources survey
- Preconstruction activities

Follow-up Items:

The applicant will provide the land survey data to the NRC once completed.

Meeting with Lea County Sheriff's Department

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, Matthew Bartlett, NRC

Richard Heimbach, Straughan

Steve Connor, Tetra Tech

Rod Coffman, Sheriff, and Mark Hargrove, Undersheriff, Lea County Sheriff Department

Summary:

The NRC provided an overview of NRC's roles and responsibilities with respect to IIFP license application and the environmental review process. The NRC also discussed the purpose of the meeting, to gather information from the Sheriff's Department on the appropriate scope of the issues to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the NRC will be preparing. The Sheriff's Department provided information related to socioeconomics including past and current housing and hotel developments, population characteristics and projections, economic trends, and emergency response events and capabilities. The Sheriff's department also highlighted the experience Lea County and the community has had with nuclear facilities such as the Urenco USA National Enrichment Facility in the Lea County and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, NM. They also discussed their emergency response capacity and capabilities.

In addition, the Sheriff's Department provided general information about the oil and gas industry that has supported the region's economy and information about other foreseeable activities such as a proposed potash mine in Lea County.

Meeting with Monument Volunteer Fire Department

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, Matthew Bartlett, NRC

Richard Heimbach, Straughan

Steve Connor, Tetra Tech

Justin Soloman, Brook Visser, Tony Aisbon, Shaun Smith, Cody Aisbon, and Jeremy Nepp, Monument Volunteer Fire Department

Summary:

The NRC provided an overview of the agency's roles and responsibilities with respect to the IIFP license application and the environmental review process. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the Monument Volunteer Fire Department on the appropriate scope of the issues to be considered in the EIS. Issues discussed with the Fire Department included transportation of the DUF₆ cylinders to and from the facility, including traffic issues; the proposed facility's chemical, radiological, and fire hazards; and emergency response. The Fire Department discussed their capabilities and capacity with respect to emergency response, and the coordination and agreements currently in place with the City of Hobbs Fire Department. The Fire Department also discussed the need for training on radiological issues and hazards specific to the proposed facility.

Meeting with the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County

Date: Wednesday July 28, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, NRC

Richard Heimbach, Chimere Lesane-Matthews, Straughan

Steve Connor, Tetra Tech

Lisa Hardison, President and CEO, Economic Development Corporation

Melinda Allen, Director of Research and Special Projects, Economic Development Corporation

Summary:

The staff met with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Lea County to gather information as part of the scoping process in support of the environmental review for the proposed IIFP facility. The discussions focused on the population characteristics and projections, demographics, economic trends and characteristics, employment data, and housing and educational resources. The EDC noted that projects such as the proposed facility will help diversify the county's economy beyond oil and gas. The EDC also noted that the community is growing.

The EDC also provided information regarding the county's historical civilian labor force, unemployment and unemployment rate. They shared a recent housing study and discussed foreseeable projects in the region such as solar and wind electric generation projects, and a potash mine.

Meeting with City of Hobbs Fire Department

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, NRC
Richard Heimbach, Chimere Lesane-Matthews, Straughan
Steve Connor, Tetra Tech
Manuel Gomez, Fire Chief, City of Hobbs Fire Department

Summary:

The NRC provided an overview of agency's roles and responsibilities with respect to IIFP license application. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the Fire Department on the appropriate scope of the issues to be considered in the EIS. The Fire Department discussed their emergency response roles, responsibilities and capabilities. They also discussed their experience with the Urenco USA National Enrichment Facility with respect to emergency response coordination and training. The Fire Department emphasized that they will need to evaluate the facility's layout, processes, chemical inventory, and facility-specific hazards to better understand what is necessary for responding to an event. The Fire Department currently has 15-20 firefighters trained for HAZMAT.

Other issues discussed included transportation of the DUF₆ cylinders to and from the facility, including traffic concerns; the proposed facility's chemical, radiological, and fire hazards; and emergency response. The Fire Department also noted the different wildfire incidents in the area; specifically, a major fire in 2006. They discussed the event's response, coordination, and measures that have been established since the fire.

Meeting with City of Hobbs Planner and Manager

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, NRC
Richard Heimbach, Chimere Lesane-Matthews, Straughan
Steve Connor, Tetra Tech
Joe Dearing, City Planner
Eric Honeyfield, City Manager

Summary:

The staff met with the City of Hobbs Planner and Manager to gather information as part of the scoping process in support of the environmental review for the IIFP proposed facility. The discussions focused on the population characteristics and projections, demographics, economic trends and characteristics, employment data, housing, and educational resources. They noted that the Lea County population is somewhat transient because of the oil and gas cycles, and that the boom-bust cycle is an indication of the capacity of the area to absorb construction workers. They also indicated that five new hotels have been constructed in recent years. They

noted that transportation capacity was not an issue. The City Planner and City Manager also discussed the city's water and sewer capacity and noted the new Wastewater Treatment Water Facility (WWTF). They noted that cones of depression from major wells in Texas do not extend to New Mexico, which is part of the Ogallala aquifer. They stated that the city advises residents to be careful with their water use, but that there are no imminent restrictions on water uses. The city currently has an excess water capacity of about 25 percent.

They also noted that there are five solar facilities being planned but the locations are not publically known. In addition, they mentioned one nearby wind farm, which is a private endeavor.

Meeting with Interim County Manager, Assessor, Attorney, and New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau

Date: Thursday July 29, 2010

Participants:

Diana Diaz-Toro, Asimios Malliakos, NRC
 Richard Heimbach, Chimere Lesane-Matthews, Straughan
 Steve Connor, Tetra Tech
 Jim Burke, Interim County Manager, Lea County
 Dee Robinson, County Assessor, Lea County
 Lawrence Hanna, County Attorney, Lea County
 Ben Arguijo, State of New Mexico NMED Drinking Water Bureau

Summary:

The NRC provided an overview of NRC's roles and responsibilities with respect to the IIFP license application. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the County on the appropriate scope of the issues to be considered in the EIS. The discussions focused on the population characteristics and projections, economic trends and characteristics, area's tax structure and distribution, employment data, housing, and educational resources. The County officials noted the declining oil industry and need to diversify the County's economy. They further noted the potential indirect impacts that could result from each job directly generated by the IIFP proposed facility. Water availability is the primary environmental concern of these County officials. The NMED representative noted that his primary concern is protection of groundwater. Other NMED departments that might need to be involved include surface water quality, air quality, and hazardous waste bureaus. The County Assessor provided information on the tax structure and assessment rates.

NRC's Public Environmental Scoping Meeting for IIFP's Proposed Fluorine Extraction Process and De-Conversion Facility

Date: Thursday July 29, 2010

Location: Lea County Event Center, 5101 Lovington Highway, Hobbs, NM 88240

Registered Attendees: Attachment 1

Summary:

The purpose of the public scoping meeting was to receive public comments on the scope of the NRC's environmental review of the proposed IIFP facility to be located in Lea County, NM. Prior to the public meeting, NRC staff hosted an hour long open house. During the open house, NRC staff answered general questions related to the purpose of the public meeting and NRC's licensing and environmental review processes. After the open house, NRC staff convened the transcribed portion of the public meeting.

Following a discussion about the meeting logistics, the NRC staff proceeded with its opening remarks and presentations. The introduction provided an overview of NRC's roles and responsibilities, mission, and primary functions. As stated, the purpose of the meeting was to gather public comments about the scope of NRC's environmental review, and convey the importance of public involvement in the environmental review process. The licensing project manager provided an overview of the application review process. The environmental project manager then provided an explanation of the development of the EIS. The NRC meeting slides can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML102240598.

After NRC's presentation, the audience was provided with an opportunity to ask general questions about the licensing and environmental review process. The meeting was then opened to the public for comment.

Approximately 60 individuals attended the meeting. Several organizations including Congressional staff; State, regional, and local officials; advocacy and stakeholder groups; and members of the public provided oral comments. There were a total of ten oral comments. The NRC's concluding remarks emphasized that the environmental review process is in its early stages and the all comments would be considered during the preparation of the EIS. The official transcript of the public scoping meeting is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML102210424.

Attendee list

International Isotopes Public Scoping Meeting

Amy Johnston	Hector Ramirez	Robert Caudle
Ana Martinez	Hollis Riley	Robert Rhodes
Benny Poole	Jack Horn	Sam White
Bill Sonnamaker	Jack Kasper	Scott Lefevre
Charley Robinson	James Lackey	Stetson Smith
Chris Shaff	Jeff Randall	Steve Laflin
Clinton Rogerson	Jerry D. Vaughn	Steve McCleery
Curtis Schrader	Joe Calderon	Susan J. Coleman
D. Murrey	John Miller	Thomas Smouse
Daniel Russell	Jonathan Sena	W. G. Brunkow
David E. Sexton	Kathi Bearden	W. Scott Brake
David Ortiz	Kenyon Burns	William Hicks
Dee Robinson	Lisa Hardison	Wyatt Padoen
Evelyn Holguin	Loyda Anaya	Philip Roybal
Frederick Yarger	Lynn Ditto	
Gary Don Reagan	Marcia Hurn	
Gary Schubert	Marco Grajeda	
Gerald Grobbsen	Matt White	
Gerald Woodson	Melinda Allen	
Greg Cain	Mike Whitehead	
Hank Adams	N. T. Rempe	
Perry Robinson	Randy Pettigrew	