

Park, James

From: Kock, Andrea ~ *PSMB*
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2009 9:00 PM
To: Park, James
Cc: Ridge, Christianne
Subject: Qs and As from NMA for briefing book
Attachments: Questions and Answers During the Qs and As from GEIS Presentation at the NMA Conference.doc

I could only find 2 main Qs and As in my notes from your session at NMA. They are attached. Please review the one on toll milling for accuracy. In particular the reasoning for not including toll milling in the GEIS.

Questions and Answers During the GEIS Presentation at the NMA Conference July 2 2009

Q: Will the NRC's revised strategy lead to uncertainty in the schedule for issuance of NRC licenses for ISR facilities?

A: No. The NRC has communicated in several forums, including during teleconferences with industry representatives, a briefing for the Commission, and a briefing for Congressional staff, that the NRC staff remain committed to completing our review of new license applications, including the environmental review, within the 2 year time frame previously communicated. The two year time frame will be exceeded for one application due to issues unrelated to the decision to issue supplemental environmental impact statements (SEISs) in lieu of environmental assessments (EAs). The schedule impact due to the completion of SEISs is expected to be 60-90 days.

The schedule for completion of SEISs is of course dependent on the level of staffing, budget, timely responses on the part of industry to requests for additional information, and the availability of contracting vehicles. These considerations are always uncertainties for licensing reviews and they remain so under the NRC's revised approach.

NRC believes that the decision to issue SEISs in lieu of EAs actually provides additional stability in the schedule. Specifically, there is no longer a possibility that a review that began as an environmental assessment may require an environmental impact statement due to an inability to issue a finding of no significant impact. This would lead to significant schedule and cost implications. While there are schedule impacts as a result of NRC's decision to issue SEISs, the revision in strategy provides more predictability in the schedule.

Q: Why did the NRC not include toll milling in its impact analysis in the GEIS?

A: During development of the GEIS, the NRC staff made a decision that toll milling, or processing of another licensee's waste products, was outside the scope of the GEIS which was intended to assess programmatic impacts of the construction, operation, decommissioning, and aquifer restoration of an in-situ recovery uranium milling facility.

However, the NRC staff is committed to fully utilizing the efficiencies afforded by the GEIS. As such, to the extent possible, the NRC staff will utilize information in the GEIS in reviewing applications for toll milling.