

## Rulemaking Comments

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**From:** Gallagher, Carol  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 8:06 AM  
**To:** Rulemaking Comments  
**Subject:** FW: National Security Concerns with Uranium Mines in Wyoming

Van,

I'm forwarding an e-mail I received regarding Uranium One USA (75 FR 57300).

Thanks,  
Carol

**From:** C. Ryan Berridge [mailto:ryan@berridgefamily.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 19, 2011 3:49 PM  
**To:** Patrick J. Toomey; Robert P. Casey  
**Cc:** donna.wichers@uranium1.com; McConnell, Keith; Moore, Scott; ileana.roslehtinen@mail.house.gov; pete.king@mail.house.gov; buck.mckee@mail.house.gov; Gallagher, Carol; Linton, Ron; cmrjaczko@nrc.gov; CMRSVINICKI Resource; CMRAPOSTOLAKIS Resource; CMRMAGWOOD Resource; CMROSTENDORFF Resource; senator@barrasso.senate.gov; senator@enzi.senate.gov; cynthia.lummis@mail.house.gov  
**Subject:** National Security Concerns with Uranium Mines in Wyoming

I am writing to you concerning two uranium mines in Wyoming; the Christensen Ranch/Irigaray Site in Johnson/Campbell Counties (License # SUA-1341) and the Moore Ranch Site in Campbell County (License # SUA-1596). I am concerned with the fact that these mines will be owned by the Russian Federation. The fact that a state-controlled Russian company having control of uranium mines within the United States does not sit well with me.

On June 8, 2010, the parent company of Uranium One USA entered into an agreement to purchase the majority share with JSC Atomredmetzoloto (ARMZ), a Russian corporation. ARMZ is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom, the Russian Federation's state agency that oversees the Russian nuclear industry. The indirect change of control would be the result of a share purchase transaction, where ARMZ acquired no less than fifty-one percent of Uranium One, Inc.'s common shares, giving ARMZ the majority control.

Several of your Congressional colleagues have expressed concern over this move. Senator John Barrasso (WY) has stressed rigorous oversight of the matter would be required of the administration. Something about this administration tells me that this will not happen. Representative Cynthia Lummis and Senator Michael Enzi, both of Wyoming, have expressed concern in this matter.

On October 5, 2010, a letter was sent to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner requesting him to block or, at least, postpone the sale involving the two mines. This letter was sent by Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL), then ranking minority member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Representative Spencer Bachus (AL), then ranking minority member of the House Financial Services committee; Representative Peter King (NY), then ranking minority member of the House Homeland Security Committee; and Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon (CA), then ranking minority member of the House Armed Services Committee. The letter stressed numerous concerns that the transaction could threaten to impair the national security of the United States and urged the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. to block, or at least postpone, the transaction until the committee could carefully evaluate the matter. Some of these concerns included:

- Rosatom's involvement with Iran with the building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and the training of Iranian scientists;
- Rosatom's agreement with the Burmese government to build nuclear facilities and train Burmese scientists;
- Rosatom's program to build and sell floating nuclear power plants even with security and environmental concerns;
- Rosatom's denial to allow the General Accounting Office access to facilities;
- Rosatom's denial of the Department of Energy's proposals for upgrading sites;
- Rosatom's refusal to cooperate in Materials Protection, Control and Accounting;
- The fact that at least nineteen Russian-entities have been sanctioned on over twenty different occasions;
- A 2009 report by the Director of National Intelligence stated that Russian entities continued to sell technologies and components in the Middle East and South Asia that are dual use and could be used for WMD and missile programs;
- The Russian interest to assist Iran further in building more reactors;
- Russia's interest to assist Syria's nuclear program, even though, Syria continues to block the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection of the nuclear facility that was destroyed by Israel in 2007

The *Wyoming Business Journal* reported, "The sale would give the Russians control of up to twenty percent of the U.S. national uranium extraction capability along, with a controlling interest, in one of the nation's largest uranium mining sites." How is this safe for the United States' national security?

Comments made by Russian President Vladimir Putin make me uneasy. On an episode of Larry King, the Russian President stated, "But to our colleagues, I would also like to advise you, don't interfere either with the sovereign choice of the Russian people."

In the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval of the change in control (7590-01-P), the NRC reported that a notification of the application and opportunity to request a public hearing or submit comments was advertised in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 2010 (NRC-2010-0300). Unfortunately, I missed this advertisement. The news of this transaction came to me after the fact. The NRC approved the indirect transfer of control on November 23, 2010. Why the rush to approve this? The NRC reported that four comments were received on the matter; however, I was only able to find two posted on the web-based ADAMS system. Where are the other two comments? Also in the NRC's approval, it was stated, "...that the issuance of the license will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public..." Who determined this? I feel that the issuance is detrimental to the common defense and security of this country!

I grew up during the tail end of the Cold War. I am still skeptical of Russia and their motives. Their actions speak louder than words and their actions have not been supportive of the United States. This matter should be seriously reviewed for the safety of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Berridge

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([148.184.100.43]) with mapi; Thu, 20 Jan 2011 08:05:47 -0500  
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From: "Gallagher, Carol" <Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov>  
To: Rulemaking Comments <Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov>  
Date: Thu, 20 Jan 2011 08:05:45 -0500  
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