August 11, 2011

Mr. Wilmer Mesteth
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Oglala Lakota Tribal Council
P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR SITE VISIT AND SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED ROSS URANIUM RECOVERY PROJECT, CROOK COUNTY, WYOMING

Dear Mr. Mesteth:

By letter dated February 9, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) notified your office that it had received a source materials license application from Strata Energy, Inc. to construct and operate a uranium *In-Situ* Recovery (ISR) facility in Crook County, Wyoming. The proposed Ross Project is approximately 11 miles west of the Devils Tower National Monument. Also in this letter, the NRC formally invited you to be a Section 106 consulting party and offered to conduct a government-to-government meeting with tribes. This letter is to inform you that the NRC has accepted the license application for detailed technical review, and to invite you to participate in a site visit and consultation meeting for the proposed Ross Project (See Enclosure 1).

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their projects and programs on historic properties. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations implementing Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800) set forth this review process, whereby the Federal agency consults with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and Indian Tribes to determine if the proposed project will have an effect on a property listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and if so, what measures might be appropriate to avoid, minimize, or mitigate that effect. The proposed federal undertaking is issuance of an NRC license.

As part of the environmental review, the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the *Generic Environmental Impact Statement for In-Situ Leach Facilities* (NUREG-1910). This SEIS will be prepared in accordance with the regulatory provisions in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51). These regulations implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.8, the SEIS will also include analyses of impacts to historic properties. The NRC staff is using this process to comply with its obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6.

The NRC seeks to identify historic properties that may be of religious and cultural significance to the Oglala Lakota Tribal Council. To facilitate your review, we have enclosed the Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of Strata Energy's Proposed Ross ISR Uranium Project, Crook

County, Wyoming, prepared by GCM Services, Inc. for Strata (See Enclosure 2). Additionally, a site walkover will be held for all interested tribes on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. On Wednesday, September 14, 2011, Section 106 consultation will take place at the Best Western Tower West Lodge in Gillette, Wyoming.

You are cordially invited to attend this site visit and consultation meeting. Associated travel and per diem costs will be reimbursed by the applicant, Strata Energy, Inc. The details of this event will be formalized at a later date.

If you are interested in attending, please notify the following member of my staff, in writing, by August 26, 2011:

Alan B. Bjornsen, Environmental Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike, M.S. T-08F05
Rockville, MD 20852

If you have any specific questions or comments on the proposed project, or need any additional information regarding the license application and the environmental review process, please contact Mr. Alan Bjornsen of my staff by telephone at 301-415-1195, or by email at Alan.Bjornsen@nrc.gov

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-9091

Enclosures:
1. NRC Acceptance Letter to Strata
2. Class III Cultural Resources Inventory

cc: w/o enclosures:
John Yellow Bird Steele, President
T. Simpson, Strata
B. Schiffer, WWC
D. Furguson, GCM
C. Pugsley, Thompson and Pugsley
R. Currit, WYSHPO
A. Tratebas, BLM
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