

August 17, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: Bill von Till, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

FROM: John L. Saxton, Hydrogeologist **/RA/**
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT: REPORT OF JULY 7, 2011 MEETING WITH STRATA ENERGY, INC.

Enclosed with this memorandum is a summary of the July 7, 2011 meeting between representatives of Strata Energy, Inc. (Strata) and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff to discuss the review of its application for the proposed Ross ISR Uranium Project. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Docket No. 04009091

Enclosure: Meeting Report

cc: Meeting Attendees

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Date	8/ 17 /11	8/ 17/11	8/ 17 /11	8/ 17 /11

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MEETING REPORT

DATE: July 7, 2011

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Two White Flint
15545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 02852

PURPOSE: Strata Energy, Inc. (Strata) requested this meeting to discuss its proposed geotechnical investigation plan at the Ross In Situ Recovery (ISR) Uranium Project in Oshoto, Crook County, Wyoming. In addition, the attendees discussed staff's preliminary review of the application based on items noted during the administrative completeness review. An agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment 1.

ATTENDEES:

See Attendees List (Attachment 2).

BACKGROUND:

On January 4, 2011, Strata submitted its application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an ISR project at the Ross site. The NRC staff initiated the acceptance review on May 2, 2011, and found the application administratively complete and acceptable for technical review on June 28, 2011.

DISCUSSION:

NRC staff read the opening statement for the meeting. The staff raised four health physics items identified during the acceptance review:

- (1) source terms for calculating off-site doses to the public;
- (2) zero emissions from the facility;
- (3) grouping of workers for personnel dosimetry and bioassay monitoring; and
- (4) parameters used in calculations for resident rancher scenario.

The discussions focused centered on item (2) as Strata stated that it proposes to use a scrubber, have negative pressure for the dryer room, and have double doors to the dryer room to control emissions. Staff noted that other potential sources need to be addressed, e.g., removal of pipes with scale.

Staff raised two geotechnical items:

- (1) the potential for on-site land application; and
- (2) storage ponds.

In general, staff noted sufficient data will be needed to evaluate these facilities if they are included in the application. In particular, Strata proposes ponds at the disposal wells without further elaboration. Strata indicated that the requested data are part of the proposed geotechnical investigation.

Staff raised six items regarding hydrogeologic items:

- (1) extraneous verbage in the application;
- (2) lack of a QA/QC plan;
- (3) clarification of Strata's statements/analysis of the groundwater elevation and pumping test data;
- (4) HEC-HMS surface water model calibration and evaluation of surface water flow at the diversion south of the CPP;
- (5) use of pilot point calibration techniques and lack of a DM horizon in the groundwater flow model; and
- (6) byproduct disposal alternatives should actual rates for the deep well injection prove to be less than the expected rates.

Strata understood those items and will evaluate the data in preparation of a request for additional information.

Staff raised two environmental review items:

- (1) need for complete alternative analysis, e.g., CPP at other location or sites within the Lance District; and
- (2) complete data for all disposal options.

Strata requested guidance on an alternative analysis for the CPP and asked if NRC staff could provide comments on the environmental report/Section 106 consultations.

Strata asked to discuss several items following NRC staff's presentation. The items are:

- (1) NRC staff adherence to the proposed schedule;
- (2) clarification of whether or not Missouri Buttes is included in the Devils Tower TCP designation;
- (3) status of communications between Strata and NRC, and NRC with BLM as a cooperating agency; and
- (4) upcoming visits by NRC staff in August and September.

In response to the above, NRC staff stated that:

- (1) the review is on schedule;
- (2) NRC staff does not determine whether or not the Missouri Buttes is to be included in the Devils Tower TCP;
- (3) communications with Strata and BLM are frequent and aid the review process; and,
- (4) logistics are being worked out for the upcoming site visit.

NRC staff will provide comments on the environmental review and status of the ongoing consultations for the Section 106 process prior to the site visits.

Strata presented its geotechnical investigation plan. The purpose of the investigation is to identify subsurface strata physical and hydraulic properties used for construction of the central facility. Another goal is to identify shallow groundwater and its recharge. The field work is planned for July and August and the analysis will likely be completed by September. Staff asked if Strata had any examples of use of slurry walls at other facilities and Strata stated noted that they have several examples.

Staff reaffirmed that completion of the supplemental environmental impact statement within one year is a target and may be affected by other activities (consultations, response to RAIs).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

NRC Action Item: Direction for Discussion on Alternatives for the CPP

Strata Action Item: Examples of facilities with slurry walls

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Agenda
- 2 List of Attendees

ATTACHMENT 1 (Revised July 7, 2011)

**Meeting Agenda
Strata Energy, Inc.
Ross In Situ Recovery Project, Crook County, WY
July 7, 2011**

MEETING PURPOSE: To discuss staff's preliminary review of the Ross ISR license application.

MEETING PROCESS:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
9:00 a.m.	Introductions	All
	Discussion of Staff's Preliminary Review of the Ross ISR License Application	NRC
	Discuss Geotech Investigation Plan	Strata
	Summary of Action Items	Moderator
	Public Comment/Questions	Moderator
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn	



ATTACHMENT 2

MEETING ATTENDEES

Date: July 7, 2011
 Room T-10C4
 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Strata Energy, Inc.

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE NUMBER or EMAIL
Stephen J. Cohen	USNRC	stephen.cohen@nrc.gov
Chris Pugsley	Thompson & Pugsley	202-496-0780
Ben Schiffer	WWC Engineering	bschiffer@wwcengineering.com
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James Webb	USNRC	301-415-6252
Elise A. Striz	USNRC	301-415-0708
Johari Moore	USNRC	301-415-7694
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Alan Bjornsen	USNRC	301-415-1195
John L. Saxton	USNRC	301-415-0697
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