September 22, 2011

Mark Sattelberg
Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, WY 82009

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE EXXONMOBIL LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Sattelberg:

By letter dated May 12, 2011, ExxonMobil Environmental Services Company (ExxonMobil) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a license amendment application to amend license No. SUA-1139. ExxonMobil's Highland Facility is located north of Douglas Wyoming in Converse County. Specifically, the amendment provides a supplemental groundwater point of compliance (POC) well and new point of exposure monitoring locations and updated alternate concentration limits for uranium at some existing POC wells and at the proposed POC well. The amendment also proposes to expand the NRC Long-Term Surveillance Boundary to include the Highland Pit Lake and the Southeast Drainage (see maps).

As part of its license amendment application, ExxonMobil submitted the Final Highland Pit Lake Ecological Assessment. This document is available electronically in NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at accession number ML11136A200. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/reading-rm/adams.html. The entire license amendment can be viewed in ADAMS in a package document at ML111360415.

The Highland Pit Lake, which was created starting in 1985, after ground water was allowed to flow into two connected open pit mines, contains elevated levels of selenium and uranium relative to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality water quality standards which are 0.005 ppm for selenium and <1.4 ppm for uranium. Current selenium and uranium concentrations in the Pit Lake exceed these standards by a factor of about 20 and 2 times. The lake presents an open water habitat that is not naturally found in the area and migratory birds and wildlife may be attracted to the area.

Please provide information that you may have concerning the presence of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat in the Highland Pit Lake area. After assessing the information provided by you, the NRC staff will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 7 consultation process.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Tom McLaughlin at (301) 415-5869 or by email at Thomas.McLaughlin@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Michalak, Chief
Materials Decommissioning Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-8102
License No.: SUA-1139

Enclosure: Maps

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