

December 22, 2011

Mr. Rick Thomas
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
425 Frazier Avenue N, Suite 2
Niobara, NE 68760

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPTS OF THE SECTION 106 CONSULTATION MEETINGS, REGARDING THE ROSS *IN-SITU* URANIUM RECOVERY PROJECT, HELD AT THE BEST WESTERN TOWER WEST LODGE IN GILLETTE, WYOMING, ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011 AND NOVEMBER 3, 2011, AND THE ATTACHED REVISION TO THE CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY, OCTOBER 2011

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extends its thanks to all the Tribal representatives who participated in the Section 106 consultation meetings and associated site visits for the Ross Project. These efforts culminated in productive meetings where all parties were able to share their respective viewpoints, comments, and concerns about the uranium recovery process and the facets of the NRC's technical and environmental review process for *in-situ* recovery facilities.

Enclosed are paper copies of the Official Transcripts of the Section 106 consultation meetings. Please note, to maintain its originality, corrections were not made to the transcripts. If you believe your statements were misrepresented in either of the transcripts, please advise the NRC staff and your comments will be added to the record.

The NRC is also enclosing a paper copy of the Revised Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Ross Project site for your review and file. A map of all identified archaeological sites on the proposed Ross Project site is included in the revised inventory.

As a reminder, this information is sensitive, and the NRC requests the proper storage of these documents, consistent with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to sensitive information.

At the consultation meetings, Tribal representatives requested that more information on traditional cultural properties (TCPs) be collected. Based on those requests and in accordance with the requirement of 36 CFR 800.4(a), the NRC staff has asked the applicant to provide information on how the proposed projects may affect TCPs. In order to address the NRC's request, the applicant may contact your office directly in the near future to seek your assistance on developing information on TCPs. Once the NRC receives additional information regarding TCPs from the applicant, the NRC plans to distribute the information to all interested Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comments.

R. Thomas

2

If you have any questions regarding this letter and its enclosures, please contact Mr. Alan Bjornsen of my staff (via email at Alan.Bjornsen@nrc.gov or via phone at 301-415-1195).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kevin Hsueh, Branch Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No. 40-9091

Enclosures:

1. Official Transcript (September 14, 2011)
2. Official Transcript (November 3, 2011)
3. Revised Class III Cultural Resources
Inventory of the Ross Project Site
(October 11, 2011)

cc: Roger Trudell

R. Thomas

2

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