

DeweyBurdNonPubEm Resource

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Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 4:45 PM
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Subject: Update on SRI Foundation's information gathering for the Dewey-Burdock Project, & proposed meeting dates of January 10-13, January 17-20, or February 13-16, 2012, in Rapid City, SD.

Good afternoon –

This e-mail provides an update on SRI Foundation's information gathering activities for the Dewey-Burdock Project. It also proposes the dates of January 10-13 or 17-20, or February 13-16, 2012, for a meeting at which representatives of the tribes and NRC can sit down together and determine how information gathering for a TCP study will proceed.

As you may recall, Powertech (USA), Inc. has submitted an application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to permit the construction and operation of in situ uranium recovery (ISR) facilities within the proposed Dewey-Burdock Project area. NRC asked Powertech to assist the agency in gathering information about places of traditional religious and cultural significance that may be affected by the proposed project. The SRI Foundation is helping Powertech in this information gathering.

On November 4, 2011, my colleague Lynne Sebastian wrote to provide the Chairs and Governors of interested Indian tribes with information about the proposed Project, and to ask whether there were interests or concerns about the Dewey-Burdock Project area. The letters copied the tribal historic preservation officers (THPOs) or cultural resources staff for the tribes. Since that time, I have had conversations with a number of the THPOs and cultural resources staff about the Project.

One of the things expressed in these conversations is the need for a meeting between representatives of the tribes and NRC. I also heard that it is most productive for NRC to meet with a consortium of tribes, and not individual tribes. The purpose of the proposed meeting would be to discuss approaches for obtaining the information needed for NRC and the tribes' Section 106 consultation. The meeting could also address other issues, such as confidentiality and the government-to-government relationship, and how that relationship relates to Powertech and SRI Foundation's role in gathering information. We understand that NRC is also planning to invite the BLM and EPA to participate in the meeting. Representatives of Powertech, and SRI Foundation would be available to participate in some or all of the meeting.

NRC has proposed the dates of January 10-13, January 17-20, or February 13-16, 2012 to meet and discuss these matters. NRC has asked Powertech (and SRI Foundation) to assist in providing this information to the tribes and in making some of the meeting arrangements. The meeting would be in Rapid City, SD. We are still working out the details, but wanted to provide you with this update and the proposed meeting dates as soon as possible.

Please let me know whether your tribe is interested in attending, and which dates would work best for the tribe. If you have questions about the proposed meeting, or would like additional information, please let me know.

Because of the expressed preference to coordinate a meeting for a consortium of tribes, I am writing this e-mail to those THPOs for whom I have an e-mail address. Please feel free to respond to me individually, if you prefer. Please let me know if you would rather I contact you individually in the future, too.

If you have questions or comments about the proposed Dewey-Burdock Project, do not hesitate to discuss them with us. The SRI Foundation telephone number is 505.892.5587. Dr. Sebastian's e-mail address is lsebastian@srifoundation.org,

and mine is mgraham@srifoundation.org. If you have questions for NRC about the proposed Dewey-Burdock Project, please contact Ms. Haimanot Yilma (telephone 301.415.8029, email haimanot.yilma@nrc.gov).

Finally, as you know, the SRI Foundation is also working on the proposed Crow Butte Project in northwestern Nebraska, which is also of interest to many of your tribes. We are hopeful that we can schedule a separate meeting about the proposed Crow Butte Project, and to save travel time we would like to schedule that meeting back-to-back with the Dewey-Burdock meeting. We are still working out these details, and hope that you could reserve some additional time around the dates proposed above so that we can accommodate the two meetings. We are happy to discuss this proposed Project with you, as well. If you have questions for NRC about the proposed Crow Butte Project, please contact Mr. Nathan Goodman (telephone 301.415.2703, email Nathan.Goodman@nrc.gov).

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,

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