

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 6, 2012

Dear Tribal Historic Preservation Officers:

The NRC staff has received an email indicating a conflict for many Tribes with the previously suggested Section 106 meeting dates of March 14 and 15, 2012. In the same email, alternate dates of April 17 through 19 were suggested as possible dates to hold the next Section 106 meeting. Unfortunately, while the staff can accommodate those suggested dates, several of the other anticipated meeting participants already have prior commitments during those dates that cannot be rescheduled.

In an effort to move the Section 106 consultation forward and collect your input, the staff suggests the following:

As indicated in our email invitation on Tuesday, February 28, 2012:

- The staff plans to forward the applicants' Statement of Work (SOW) for the proposed Crow Butte License Renewal, Crow Butte North Trend, and Dewey-Burdock projects by **March 9, 2012** for your review and consideration.
- The staff requests your draft SOW for the proposed Crow Butte License Renewal, Crow Butte North Trend, and Dewey-Burdock projects by **March 16, 2012.** This will allow the staff to promptly identify areas of agreement and disagreement with the applicants' proposed SOW. This will also allow the staff to identify for the applicants any areas in which they might consider revising their SOW. In brief, this will allow the consulting parties to continue working toward an acceptable SOW.
- The staff plans to review the SOWs submitted by you and the applicants, along with any additional input you or the applicants provide in the next several weeks, and prepare one comprehensive SOW for each of the proposed projects. The staff plans to circulate a comprehensive SOW for each of the projects to all consulting parties by March 28, 2012.
- The staff proposes having a 4 hour conference call to discuss the comprehensive SOWs during the week of April 9, 2012, or the week of April 16, 2012.

Based on the outcome of the conference call, if the parties determine another face-to-face meeting is warranted, the staff will arrange such a meeting based on the availabilities of all consulting parties.

If you have any questions or concerns about the above plan, please contact Mr. Nathan Goodman via email at <u>Nathan.goodman@nrc.gov</u>, or Ms. Haimanot Yilma via email at <u>Haimanot.yilma@nrc.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

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