



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

January 3, 2013

Dear Tribal Historic Preservation Officer:

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CROW BUTTE *IN-SITU* URANIUM RECOVERY (ISR) LICENSE RENEWAL, NORTH TREND, MARSLAND, AND THREE CROW PROJECTS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for the government-to-government National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106, consultation for the Crow Butte project areas near Crawford, Nebraska. These project areas include the Cameco Resources, Inc. (Cameco) Crow Butte operating ISR facility license renewal and the proposed North Trend ISR Expansion Area (NTEA), Marsland ISR Expansion Area (MEA), and Three Crow ISR Expansion Area (TCEA). The NRC has previously provided maps indicating the locations of these four project areas to each of the consulting Tribes, along with the results of previous historical and archaeological field surveys.

The NRC is currently preparing a separate Environmental Assessment (EA) for each of the Cameco project areas. NRC staff serving as project managers for the individual EAs are: Mr. Nathan Goodman (ISR facility license renewal and NTEA); Ms. Jean Trefethen (MEA); and Ms. Ashley Waldron (TCEA). For additional information pertaining to a specific Cameco project area or the associated EA document, please contact the respective NRC project manager at the contact points listed below.

As part of the NRC ongoing efforts to identify historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Native American Tribes that could be affected by the Cameco projects, the NRC staff sent a letter, dated October 31, 2012, offering each consulting Tribe an opportunity to participate in a field study to identify potential places of religious and cultural significance at these sites. As part of this opportunity, Cameco offered to open each of the four project areas for field inspection during the period November 14-December 7, 2012.

The October 31, 2012, letter included a November 14 deadline for Tribes to make their intentions known regarding participation in the fieldwork opportunity. The letter deadline only applied to the fieldwork opportunity and did not apply NRC's overall commitment to continuation of the Section 106 tribal consultations, nor did it place a deadline on future Section 106 activities. It did place a deadline on whether or not a Tribe chose to accept or decline Cameco's offer to fund field visits in the fall of 2012.

Some of the consulting Tribes responded that they did not have an interest in accepting the fieldwork opportunity, primarily because of distance or a lack of specific interest in the Cameco project areas. Three consulting Tribes objected to the offer to open the project areas. Other Tribes did not respond either way.

Included in the October 31, 2012, letter was a provision for Tribes who wish to participate in conducting field investigations at the Crow Butte project areas to suggest alternative dates, if the period November 14-December 7, 2012 was not compatible with an individual Tribe's schedule. In order for Cameco to be able to accommodate a Tribe's needs during this period, it was necessary to have a response to the available opportunity by November 14, 2012. The October 31, 2012, letter also included the possibility of conducting part of the field effort in the fall of 2012 for the ISR license area and the proposed NTEA, with another session for the proposed MEA and TCEA project areas during a January-May, 2013 timeframe. One Tribe responded by November 14, 2012, that they would possibly be interested in conducting fieldwork after January 1, 2013.

Two consulting Tribes accepted the applicant's offer to open the Crow Butte project areas during the November 14-December 7, 2012, timeframe. Tribal field crews successfully completed coverage for the four Cameco project areas for zones thought to potentially contain places of Tribal religious and cultural significance. Those two Tribes are currently preparing reports for submission directly to the NRC.

Should you have any questions for NRC staff, please contact either Mr. Nathan Goodman, NRC Project Manager, at 301-415-2703, or Nathan.Goodman@nrc.gov; Ms. Jean Trefethen, NRC Project Manager, at 301-415-5137 or Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov; or Ms. Ashley Waldron, NRC Project Manager, at Ashley.Waldron@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



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