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Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Dewey-Burdock In-Situ Uranium Recovery Project

Comment On: NRC-2012-0277-0001
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Dewey-Burdock In-Situ Uranium Recovery Project in Custer and Fall River Counties, SD

Document: NRC-2012-0277-DRAFT-0009
Comment on FR Doc # 2012-28425

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Submitter Information

11/26/2012

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Name: Ann Juette

Address:

523 E Capitol Ave, Foss Bldg
Pierre, SD, 57501

Organization: South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry

Government Agency Type: State

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

DocketID-NRC-2012-0277

SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE
TEMPLATE = ADM-013

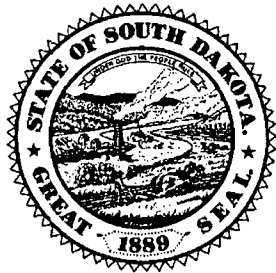
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SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3182

Phone – 605.773.3623 / FAX 605.773.4003

1.800.228.5254 in SD

Website – www.sdda.sd.gov/forestry

January 3, 2013

Cindy Bladey, Chief
Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)
Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-001

RE: Docket ID NRC-2012-0277

Dear Ms. Bladey:

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry has reviewed the application for the proposed Dewey-Burdock In-Situ Leach Uranium Recovery Facility. We have also reviewed the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Proposed Dewey-Burdock In-Situ Uranium Recovery Project in Custer and Fall River Counties, South Dakota. Our review focused primarily on the ecological site reclamation listed in Section 4.6.1.1.1.1.1. In response, we offer the below comments regarding the proposed project:

- We request that all reclamation/restoration/re-vegetation measures (including planning activities and seeding mixtures and rates) on private land follow the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation (NRCS) South Dakota Field Office Technical Guide Standards.
NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations. The Field Office Technical Guide Standards contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. Technical Guide Standards are developed locally so that they apply specifically to the geographic area for which they are prepared.
- Prior to site disturbance, we request the applicant conduct a site inventory of the existing vegetative community on proposed disturbed sites. We request that the disturbed site be reclaimed/restored to the same vegetative types/plant communities as existed prior to disturbance. In other words, we request that grassland be restored to grassland and ponderosa pine stands be restored to ponderosa pine, and riparian areas be restored to same riparian area plant communities that existed pre-disturbance based in the aforementioned pre-disturbance inventory.
- We request that a detailed Noxious Weed Management Plan be developed by the applicant and include as a part of the application. The SEIS states that the applicant proposes using a North Dakota

State University Weed Control Guide. We request that the applicant be required to use South Dakota State University (SDSU) Weed Control guidance for the use of herbicides and control of weeds. SDSU weed control information can be found at this website: <http://www.sdstate.edu/ps/extension/weed-mgmt/index.cfm> . We request the plan require approval by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Agriculture Services, Office of Plant Protection as well as the local county Weed and Pest Boards. The land application of water may impact the current ecosystem and alter the plant species within those application sites. The applicant has identified two noxious weeds in the project area. A plan needs to be in place to address the management of those and other weeds during the life of the project.

Other general concerns:

- Throughout the SEIS, Best Management Practices (BMPS) are suggested. We request you identify the source of those Best Management Practices and identify the practices with specificity. As mentioned our first bullet, we would request that the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide be used to identify BMPs appropriate for the project.

We appreciate NRC's attention to these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, or requests for additional information regarding the issues raised in this letter.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Juette
Natural Resource Planner

XC: Ray Sowers, Division Director
Bill Smith, Conservation Program Supervisor
Eric Holm, Natural Resources Project Engineer, South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources