

August 30, 2013

Ms. Sharon A. Pinto, Director  
Navajo Regional Office  
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P.O. Box 1060  
Gallup, NM 87305

SUBJECT: COOPERATING AGENCY REQUEST CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT FOR HYDRO RESOURCES, INC.'S LICENSE RENEWAL  
REQUEST FOR THE CROWNPOINT URANIUM PROJECT, MCKINLEY COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO

Dear Ms. Pinto:

In March 1997, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Source Material License SUA-1580 to Hydro Resources, Inc. (HRI), authorizing HRI to conduct in-situ uranium recovery (ISR) activities at the Crownpoint Uranium Project (CUP) in McKinley County, New Mexico. NRC's environmental review for that licensing action was documented in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the preparation of which the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) served as a Cooperating Agency. Enclosed is a figure showing the geographical locations of the four properties (Section 8, Section 17, Unit 1, and Crownpoint) that compose the CUP. Both the Unit 1 and the Crownpoint properties include tribal lands allotted to Navajos.

By letter to the NRC dated August 22, 2002, HRI requested that SUA-1580 be renewed for a second term. On March 21, 2013, HRI submitted a revised CUP Environmental Report (ER) and Consolidated Operations Plan (COP) to the NRC to supplement HRI's 2002 license renewal application. By letter dated June 24, 2013, NRC acknowledged receipt of the revised application for detailed technical and environmental review.

To document the results of its environmental review, the NRC staff will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). The purpose of this letter is to ask whether the BIA would like to be a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of the EA for this licensing action.

S. Pinto

2

If you have any questions about this letter or the NRC staff's environmental review of HRI's license renewal application, please contact Mr. James Park. He can be reached at (301) 415-6935 or by email at [James.Park@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Park@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Kevin Hsueh, 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

Enclosure:  
Location Map of Crownpoint  
Uranium Project Sites

cc: Mark Pelizza, HRI

S. Pinto

2

If you have any questions about this letter or the NRC staff's environmental review of HRI's license renewal application, please contact Mr. James Park. He can be reached at (301) 415-6935 or by email at [James.Park@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Park@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Kevin Hsueh, 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

Enclosure:  
Location Map of Crownpoint  
Uranium Project Sites

cc: Mark Pelizza, HRI

DISTRIBUTION: RLinton    AWaldron

**ML13217A086**

OFC:	DWMEP	DWMEP	OGC	DWMEP
NAME:	JPark	AWalkerSmith	JOImstead	KHsueh
DATE:	8/06/13	8/06/13	8/19/13	8/30/13

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**