

**INFORM • Powder River Basin Resource Council • Tallahassee Area Community •  
Uranium Watch**

August 6, 2013

To: Mr. Randolph (Bill) Von Till  
Branch Chief, Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Two White Flint North  
Rockville, MD 20852

Cc: Ms. Nancy Nuttbrock, Administrator, Land Quality Division, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Via email to: [RWV@nrc.gov](mailto:RWV@nrc.gov)

Dear Mr. Von Till:

In a letter dated July 19, 2013, Nuvemco LLC notified the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining & Safety (DRMS) that it intended to haul approximately 100 tons of uranium ore from Mesa County, Colorado, to Casper, Wyoming. Once in Wyoming, Nuvemco LLC indicates that the ore will be subject to “ablation” processing prior to its ultimate transport to the White Mesa Mill in Blanding, Utah. (Please see enclosed letter from Nuvemco LLC to DRMS.)

In its correspondence, Nuvemco has stated that ablation is a “continuation of mining” and that the waste from the ablation process will be “handled in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations.” In order to process the Mesa County ore, Nuvemco has partnered with Ablation Technologies, LLC, of Casper, Wyo., and its joint venture partner, Black Range Minerals Ltd. According to a recent quarterly activities report from Black Range Minerals, the companies have constructed a 5-ton-per-hour ablation processing unit in Casper to demonstrate the technology and assess the feasibility of fully processing the Mesa County ore. (Please see enclosed report.)

Our organizations share an interest in understanding how this test-phase of processing the Colorado ore in Wyoming before shipping to Utah for further processing has been permitted by NRC as well as how it will continue to be regulated in the future. It is our understanding that NRC has determined that ablation is source material processing, which requires the appropriate source material processing license and is subject to a public review and approval process.

Can you please inform us whether an application for a source material processing license has been received from any of the parties involved in the processing of ore from the Nuvemco site in Mesa County, Colorado?

Has the NRC issued a license for an ablation or other ore processing facility in Wyoming to Ablation Technologies, Black Range, or another company?

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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