

December 12, 2013

Mr. James Coates, Managing Member
Mineral Ablation, LLC
1450 North 7 Mile Road
Casper, WY 82604

SUBJECT: UPCOMING DECEMBER 19, 2013 PUBLIC MEETING ON USE OF THE
ABLATION TECHNOLOGY

Dear Mr. Coates:

By letter dated November 19, 2013, Mineral Ablation LLC (MA) requested a meeting with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to discuss legal and regulatory issues related to the use of ablation technology. The November 19 letter also contained an update on MA's pilot project activities in Wyoming. The staff appreciates the public meeting request and update on the pilot project. As you are aware, we currently have a public meeting scheduled for December 19, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. eastern time (additional details on the meeting are available on the NRC's public meeting webpage).

As previously communicated to Ablation Technologies, it appears that the ablation process would, at a minimum, require a source material license. After reviewing the November 19 letter, we understand that your current activities may fall within the general source material license provisions contained in 10 CFR 40.22. The staff has identified several questions related to compliance with general license limits contained in this regulation.

The staff requests that MA be prepared to answer the following questions at the upcoming December 19 public meeting:

- Is MA determining compliance with the general license limits in 10 CFR 40.22 through direct measurement, calculation, or some other method?
- What documentation is available to confirm compliance with the general license limits?
- What is the form of the material after it has been ablated?
- Has any source material been sent off-site? If so, where?
- Have any waste materials been sent off-site? If so, where?

If you have any questions, please contact me at douglas.mandeville@nrc.gov or at (301) 415-0724.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Douglas T. Mandeville, Senior Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

cc:

R. Grebb, Black Range Minerals
C. Pugsley, Thompson & Pugsley

J. Coates

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