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NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement On Ross Uranium Recovery Project in Wyoming

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed Ross in-situ uranium recovery (ISR) project in Crook County, Wyo. The report concludes there are no environmental impacts that would preclude licensing the facility.

Strata Energy Inc. submitted a license application for the facility on Jan. 4, 2011. The license would authorize Strata to construct and operate an ISR facility and well fields at the Ross site, and ultimately to restore aquifers, decommission the facility, and reclaim the site. The Ross project would use the ISR process to recover uranium from underground ore and convert the recovered uranium into yellowcake for use in the production of nuclear fuel.

The NRC report analyzes environmental impacts specific to the Ross project and mitigation strategies to reduce or avoid adverse effects on the surrounding environment. The staff in January 2014 completed a separate technical review of the safety aspects of the application. That review concluded that Strata's application complies with NRC regulations.

The NRC is also reviewing the project's potential impacts on historic and cultural resources. Once the staff has finished that process as required by the National Historic Preservation Act, the NRC can issue a license. The staff is finalizing a programmatic agreement that defines how we will continue to address effects on historic properties into the future. Later this year, an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold a hearing on environmental contentions.

The SEIS for the proposed Ross uranium recovery project is available on the [NRC website](#) as Supplement 5 to NUREG-1910, Generic Environmental Impact Statement for In-Situ Leach Uranium Milling Facilities. More information on the application and the staff's review is also available on the [NRC website](#).