May 30, 2014

Mr. Darrell “Curley” Youpee
Fort Peck Tribes
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
501 Medicine Bear Road
P.O. Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255-1027

SUBJECT: UPDATE OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION AND AVAILABILITY OF FIELD DOCUMENTATION OF POTENTIAL PLACES OF TRIBAL RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AT THE CROW BUTTE MARSLAND EXPANSION AREA PROJECT SITE

Dear Mr. Youpee:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for the government-to-government consultation with respect to the renewal of operating license SUA-1534 for the Cameco Resources, Inc. (Cameco) Crow Butte in-situ uranium recovery (ISR) facility and the three proposed expansion areas: North Trend Expansion Area (NTEA); Marsland Expansion Area (MEA); and, Three Crow Expansion Area (TCEA). The purpose of this letter is to provide your office with an update of ongoing consultation activities in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the proposed MEA.

On April 2, 2013, the NRC provided your office with a copy of the Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) Survey report completed by the Santee Sioux Nation and the Crow Nation for the proposed Crow Butte projects. The TCP Survey report summarized the findings from the Tribal field inventory of the operating ISR facility, the MEA, and the TCEA, identifying 13 places of cultural significance to the tribes. The report determined that none of the 13 places was potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The report also offered recommendations for a buffer zone around each of the 13 identified places to avoid impacts during future project activities, and for one or two Tribal monitors to be stationed at each identified site within the Marsland project area should any future impacts occur in close proximity. The Tribal report included location data for each of the 13 identified places, along with a label designating potential function or cultural value.

While NRHP recommendations were offered in the TCP Survey report, supporting documentation for those evaluations was not included. Therefore, to provide the necessary documentation of the identified sites for NRHP determinations, the NRC sent a cultural resources expert to revisit the surveyed area, locate each of the 13 places identified by the Crow and Santee Sioux Nations, and complete standard cultural site documentation for each place. This cultural resources expert was present during the initial tribal survey with the Crow Nation and the Santee Sioux Nation and was able to relocate the 13 places identified by the tribes. The cultural resources expert completed the field visit and produced a field survey report which provides additional details to accompany the Crow and Santee Sioux Nations’ interpretation of each identified site.

The NRC staff has attached an unredacted copy of the field survey report for your review and comments. The attached report contains sensitive information about the locations of potential historic sites and must, therefore, be protected from public disclosure pursuant to Section 304 of the NHPA and Nebraska state law. The NRC requests that any comments you wish to provide on the field survey report be submitted on or before June 27, 2014.

A redacted version of this report will be made publicly available on June 30, 2014, in conjunction with the publication on the NRC website of the draft cultural resources section of the staff's environmental review document for the MEA. The NRC will notify your office of the availability of the draft cultural resources section on the NRC website, along with other documentation pertaining to Section 106 consultation for the MEA. The NRC plans to allow 30 days for the public to provide comments on the draft cultural resources section.

If you have any additional questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Mirabelle Shoemaker at 301-415-6423, or by e-mail at Mirabelle.Shoemaker@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

Docket No.: 40-8943

License No.: SUA-1534

Enclosure:
Field Documentation of Potential Places
of Tribal Religious or Cultural Significance

cc:
Mr. Floyd Azure, Chairman
Fort Peck Tribes
501 Medicine Bear Road
P.O. Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255-1027

The NRC staff has attached an unredacted copy of the field survey report for your review and comments. The attached report contains sensitive information about the locations of potential historic sites and must, therefore, be protected from public disclosure pursuant to Section 304 of the NHPA and Nebraska state law. The NRC requests that any comments you wish to provide on the field survey report be submitted on or before June 27, 2014.

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If you have any additional questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Mirabelle Shoemaker at 301-415-6423, or by e-mail at Mirabelle.Shoemaker@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Kevin Hsueh, Chief
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OFC	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	DWMEP	OGC	DWMEP
NAME	MShoemaker	AWalker-Smith	JTrefethen	NGoodman	MSimon	KHsueh
DATE	5/21/14	5/22/14	5/19/14	5/21/14	5/27/14	5/30/14

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