

January 22, 2015

Ms. Michelle Koch
Environmental Analyst Supervisor
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
2200 N. 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 685023

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION FOR ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES AND
CRITICAL HABITAT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE CROW BUTTE IN
SITU URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITY NEAR DAWES COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Dear Ms. Koch:

This letter pertains to consultation for endangered or threatened species and critical habitat for the license renewal of the Crow Butte in situ uranium recovery facility near Dawes County, Nebraska. The renewed license authorizes an additional ten years of operation for this facility.

As part of our independent analysis of environmental effects, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff reviewed available U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) documents and websites and contacted FWS regarding endangered or threatened species and critical habitat in the project area. On June 20, 2008 FWS recommended that the NRC consult with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) regarding state-listed species. The NRC has determined that renewal of the operating facility license will not likely impact any threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for the following reasons: no new wellfield construction is anticipated at the operating facility; there is limited suitable habitat available for federal and state listed species of concern; and federal and state listed species of concern have not been observed in the project area. The NRC staff documented its findings in the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) published in October, 2014. The accession number for the Final EA is ML14288A517.

Based on our assessment, the NRC staff has determined that no additional consultation is necessary for this project because no adverse effects to federally threatened, endangered, or candidate species are expected. The NRC has requested concurrence from FWS and also requests concurrence with our determination from NGPC. The Final EA will be supplemented to reflect the results of this consultation.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the 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 NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

M. Koch

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If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact Ms. Mirabelle Shoemaker of my staff by telephone at 301-415-6423 or by email at Mirabelle.Shoemaker@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lydia Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-8943
License No.: SUA-1534

Enclosure:
FWS letter dated June 20, 2008

M. Koch

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Docket No.: 40-8943
License No.: SUA-1534

Enclosure:
FWS letter dated June 20, 2008

ML15022A417 *via e-mail

OFC:	NMSS/FCSE	NMSS/FCSE	NMSS/FCSE	OGC*	NMSS/FCSE
NAME:	MShoemaker	NGoodman	AWalker-Smith	MSimon	LChang
DATE:	01/20/2015	01/22/2015	01/22/2015	01/20/2015	01/22/2015

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