



**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**

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February 6, 2015

Ms. Lydia Chang  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Re: Endangered and Threatened Species Review for Crow Butte In Situ Uranium Recovery Facility License Renewal, License No. SUA-1534, Dawes County, Nebraska**

Dear Ms. Chang:

Please make reference to your letter dated January 22, 2015. This letter is in response to your request for concurrence regarding this project's potential impacts to endangered and threatened species in Dawes County, Nebraska. As we understand it, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering renewing the license for the Crow Butte in situ uranium recovery facility. The renewed license authorizes an additional 10 years of operation for this facility. We have completed our review of the proposed project under the Nebraska Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-801 to 37-811) of and we offer the following comments.

This project is within the range of the state and federally listed endangered black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) and the state-listed endangered swift fox (*Vulpes velox*). There are no known populations of black-footed ferrets in Nebraska, and the project area does not contain habitat (i.e. prairie dog towns) for this species. There are records of swift fox within five miles of the project area, and habitat for this species exists within the vicinity of the project area.

The facility is already operational and no new wellfield construction is anticipated at this facility. Therefore, we concur that renewing the license for this facility will have "No Effect" on state-listed endangered or threatened species. This concurrence is based on a review of the material you sent, aerial photographs, and our Nebraska Natural Heritage Database.

If the proposed project is changed or new information regarding endangered or threatened species becomes available, then this concurrence is no longer valid and further consultation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is recommended.

All federally listed endangered or threatened species are also state-listed. For an assessment of potential impacts to habitats and species protected under federal wildlife laws, including federally listed, candidate or proposed endangered or threatened species, please contact John Cochnar, Nebraska Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 9325 South Alda Road, Wood River, Nebraska 68883.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (402) 471-5438 or [michelle.koch@nebraska.gov](mailto:michelle.koch@nebraska.gov).

Sincerely,



Michelle R. Koch  
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Planning and Programming Division

ec: Mirabelle Shoemaker, Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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