

March 13, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Bill Von Till, Chief
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: John L. Saxton, Project Manager */RA/*
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

On February 3, 2015, a public meeting was held at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters, at the request of the Strata Energy, Inc. (Strata), to discuss Strata's upcoming schedule for development of the Ross Project with an emphasis on actions required prior to scheduling a preoperational inspection. A summary of the meeting is enclosed.

Docket No.: 040-09091

Enclosure:
Meeting Summary

CONTACT: John Saxton, DUWP/NMSS
(301) 415-0697

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DISTRIBUTION:

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NAME	JSaxton	SAchten	JSaxton
DATE	03/09/15	03/09/15	03/13/15

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: February 3, 2015

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

PLACE: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Headquarters
Two White Flint North, Room T-8C1
Rockville, Maryland

PURPOSE: This meeting was held at the request of Strata Energy, Inc., to discuss the upcoming schedule for development of the Ross Project with emphasis on timing for the pre-operational inspection

ATTENDEES: See Attached Attendee List.

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated April 24, 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML14069A315), NRC staff transmitted Source and Byproduct Materials License SUA-1601 to Strata Energy, Inc. (Strata) for the Ross in situ recovery facility located in Crook County, Wyoming. Strata requested this public meeting to discuss the upcoming schedule for development of the project specifically to meet the preoperational license conditions.

DISCUSSION:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff read the opening statement for a Category 1 public meeting. After introductions, the meeting was turned over to Strata to lead the discussions. Strata provided four documents (ADAMS Accession Number ML15040A504) which consist of: (1) Meeting Agenda; (2) Regulatory Schedule Gantt Chart; (3), Site Layout Drawing; and (4), Kendrick Facility Drawing.

Strata began the discussion on the project status. The activities being conducted consist of three (3) drilling rigs primarily plugging historic boreholes in Mine Unit 1. Plant construction will begin in mid-February and expected to be completed in July 2015. Pre-construction activities consisted of installing access roads, surface water diversion channel and the containment barrier wall (CBW). The major design changes consist of the plant being approximately two-thirds the size of the original design and the administrative building being moved closer to the Central Processing Plant (CPP) than originally designed. NRC Staff asked about changes to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) design. Strata reported that the new system design diagrams will be submitted to NRC (**Strata action item**). Strata anticipates that drilling of the deep disposal is expected to start in February and be completed in 90 days. At this time Strata does not have the information to determine if an aquifer exemption is needed.

Strata reported that the plant construction will be completed in three phases. The first phase consists of a partial completion of the plant as a "satellite" facility (i.e., only housing the IX columns with elution of the IX columns through toll milling at another licensed facility). The first phase will be completed by July 2015. The second phase consists of completing the remaining

Enclosure

portion of the processing plant with the exception of installing dryers. The third phase consists of installing the dryers. Timing for completion of the second or third phases is unknown at this time.

Because of the scaled-down phase 1 plant, Strata asked about the need for a 1-day visit by NRC inspectors prior to the pre-operational inspection. Region IV staff indicated that the inspection would be beneficial and will work with the licensee on the timing (**NRC and Strata action item**)

Strata presented their proposed schedule. For submittals fulfilling the pre-operational conditions, Strata plans to submit or has submitted on October 29, 2014, and January 16, February 27 and April 15, 2015. NRC staff committed to updating Strata on the review status of the currently submittals and send acknowledgments of future submittals (and the January 16 submittal after it is processed through DCD) (**NRC action item**). NRC staff also committed to inform management/responsible staff of the intended submittals in order to plan the appropriate man-hours, if possible (**NRC action item**) and proceed with the review of the January submittal (Plans for the environmental monitoring program for the pond) (**NRC action item**). With regards to the October 14, 2014 submittal (meteorological review), NRC staff stated that the review was assigned to a contractor and a deliverable is anticipated within the next couple of months.

Strata indicated that the limiting item on the schedule is the timing for staff's review and verification of the Mine Unit 1 hydrogeologic package. Strata's schedule supports a 54-day review whereas NRC staff has made it known that the review should be minimally 60 days. Strata stated that the limited review time was attributed to the likely delay in constructing the wellfield due to meeting commitments in the Programmatic Agreement (PA) developed under the Nation Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NRC staff committed to planning resources to attempt to review the package in the short period (**NRC action item**).

Strata inquired about the work associated with the PA. Strata stated that they contracted a person to implement the PA and asked what actions were necessary to have the contractor work directly with NRC, if possible. Strata committed to sending an email acknowledging the contractor (**Strata action item**). Strata stated that the additional testing plan will be submitted in February. Strata asked about the timing and path forward for the Wyoming SHPO's review of the tribal report and the referral to the Keeper. NRC staff indicated that the report is referred to the Keeper and that the timing of the Keeper's review is unknown. Strata indicated that one (1) tribal site was located on the northern edge of mine unit 1. NRC staff reminded Strata that an untested site has to be considered eligible (until the testing is complete) and thus an avoidance issue must be addressed in accordance with the stipulations in the PA.

Strata stated that the amendment request for the Kendrick expansion area will likely be submitted to NRC in March and Wyoming in April. The Kendrick expansion is the abutting area in which the lixiviant will be piped to the Ross plant for processing (i.e., no surface plant construction is needed) and that no additional deep disposal wells are needed. Strata asked that if the same personnel are assigned to review both the Kendrick Amendment and the pre-operational license condition submittals, that the review of the pre-operational license condition submittals be the higher priority.

No members of the public were present at the meeting and thus there were no questions from members of the public.

ACTION ITEMS

The actions items are as follows:

STRATA

- Submit revised HVAC design to NRC
- Develop timing with NRC for 1-day site visit
- Submit notice of the PA contractor

NRC

- Develop timing with Strata for 1-day site visit
- Send acknowledgment of submittals
- Inform management of staff review needs for Strata proposed submittals
- Proceed on review of the monitoring program for the pond
- Prepare for efficient review wellfield hydrogeologic package

Attachments:

1. Meeting Announcement
2. Agenda
3. List of Attendees



PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Title: Meeting between NRC and Strata to Discuss Update on Development of the Ross Project

Date(s) and Time(s): February 03, 2015, 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: NRC Two White Flint North, 8A1
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD

Category: This is a Category 1 meeting. The public is invited to observe this meeting and will have one or more opportunities to communicate with the NRC after the business portion of the meeting but before the meeting is adjourned.

Purpose: Discuss Update on Development of the Ross Project

Contact: John Saxton
301-415-0697
John.Saxton@nrc.gov

Participants:

NRC

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and
Safeguards

External

Strata Energy, Inc.

Teleconference: Interested members of the public can participate in this meeting via a toll-free teleconference. For details, please call the NRC meeting contact.

Docket No: 04009091

Comments: Interested Parties can contact the administrative meeting contact no later than January 30, 2015 for Bridgeline Information.



PUBLIC MEETING
AGENDA

Meeting between NRC and Strata to
Discuss Update on Development of the
Ross Project

February 03, 2015, 09:00

AM to 12:00 PM

NRC Two White Flint North, 8A1
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD

- 9:00 am Introductions, Opening Remarks, and Statement of Purpose
- 9:15 am Discussion: scalable plant design, construction and commissioning schedule
- 11:30 am Public Comment/Questions
- 12:00 pm Adjourn

The time of the meeting is local to the jurisdiction where the meeting is being held.

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in this meeting, or if a meeting notice, transcript, or other information from this meeting is needed in another format (e.g., Braille, large print), please notify the NRC meeting contact. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.



MEETING ATTENDEES
Date: February 3, 2015
Room T8A1
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Topic: Meeting between NRC and Strata to Discuss Update on Development of the Ross Project

NAME	AFFILIATION
John Saxton	NRC
Bill von Till	NRC
Elise Stritz	NRC
David Cylkowski	NRC
Lloyd Desotell	NRC
Reggie Augustus	NRC
Johari Moore	NRC
Linda Gersey*	NRC
Ralph Knode	Strata
Mike Griffin	Strata
Ben Schiffer*	Strata

***Participated via Teleconference**