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NRC Seeks Public Comment Ahead of Environmental Review for Expansion of Ross Uranium Recovery Facility in Wyoming

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is asking the public for input on the scope of the environmental issues to be covered in its review of Strata Energy Inc.'s application to expand the Ross in situ uranium recovery facility in Crook County, Wyoming. The NRC's environmental review will be documented in a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS).

Strata applied to the NRC in early 2015 for approval to build and operate additional uranium recovery wells in the Kendrick expansion area, which covers about 7,800 acres adjacent to the Ross facility, located 27 miles northeast of Gillette, Wyo. The agency published a notice of receipt of the license application and an opportunity to request a hearing in the [February 29 Federal Register](#).

The supplemental EIS will reference both the NRC's generic EIS for in situ uranium recovery and the Ross supplemental EIS, and will examine the potential environmental impacts of the proposed construction, operation, decommissioning and aquifer restoration of the Kendrick expansion area.

The NRC granted Strata a license in April 2014 to construct and operate the Ross facility. The in situ process pumps a native groundwater solution through a series of injection wells into a sandstone ore body, then extracts the solution through a series of a production wells. The solution uses oxidants, such as oxygen or hydrogen peroxide, and other chemical compounds such as sodium bicarbonate, to mobilize uranium contained within the sandstone. After extraction, the solution would be transported through pipes to the Ross processing plant. Strata does not propose to construct or operate additional processing plants at Kendrick. Uranium removed from the extracted solution can be made into "yellowcake," a form of uranium that can be further processed into fuel pellets for nuclear reactors.

Written comments referencing Docket ID NRC-2011-0148 may be submitted until April 22 to the federal government's [rulemaking website](#); by mail to Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; or by email to KendrickSEIS@nrc.gov.