

## Grange, Briana

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**From:** Grange, Briana  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2018 10:27 AM  
**To:** 'Ciurej, Amanda'  
**Cc:** Quintero, Jessie  
**Subject:** Request for Concurrence with NRC's NLAA Determinations for Marsland ISR Expansion  
**Attachments:** Biological Evaluation of Impacts to Northern Long-Eared Bat, Whooping Crane, Red Knot, and Black-Footed Ferret for Proposed Marsland Expansion Area ISR Amendment.pdf

Amanda,

Please find attached the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's biological evaluation that assesses the potential impacts of an amendment to Source Materials License No. SUA-1534 on four federally listed species: northern long-eared bat, whooping crane, red knot, and black-footed ferret. If approved by the NRC, the amendment would allow Crow Butte Resources, Inc. to expand its in situ uranium recovery (ISR) operations at the Marsland Expansion Area, a site located near the town of Marsland, Nebraska.

In the evaluation, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the northern long-eared bat and whooping crane. The NRC staff determined that the red knot and black-footed ferret do not occur in the action area based on a review of these species' life histories, habitat requirements, available ecological studies, and other species occurrence information. For these species, the NRC staff determined that the proposed action would have no effect.

I am submitting the enclosed biological evaluation for your review on behalf of the NRC and request your concurrence with the staff's determinations that the proposed action "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the northern long-eared bat and whooping crane in accordance with 50 CFR 402.12(j). Although I understand that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not typically provide its concurrence with "no effect" determinations, I welcome any comments you may have related to the red knot and black-footed ferret. You may provide your response directly to me by email, and please also CC Jessie Quintero (jessie.quintero@nrc.gov).

Thank you for your assistance during this process and the additional information you've provided to NRC. It has been much appreciated! Jessie will be in contact with you later today or tomorrow to give you an update on NRC's remaining milestones and the timeline for this project.

Thank you,

Briana

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**Briana A. Grange**

Aquatic Biologist

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