



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 4, 2019

Ms. Rachel Perash, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. ARMY'S SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE FOR
THE JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND (DOCKET NUMBER: 40-8838)

Dear Ms. Perash:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing a request by the U.S. Department of the Army (Army) to amend the Army's source material license (SUB-1435) from "possession-only for decommissioning" to "possession-only" and to exempt the Army from the NRC's decommissioning timeliness requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 40.42(d). The license currently authorizes possession-only for decommissioning of up to 80,000 kilograms (176,370 pounds) of depleted uranium metal, alloy, and/or other forms, kept onsite in a restricted area known as the "Depleted Uranium Impact Area" at the Jefferson Proving Ground in southeastern Indiana. If the NRC grants the amendment and the exemption requests, the NRC staff anticipates establishing a license condition that would exempt the Army from the need to submit a decommissioning plan for 20 years, at which time the Army would be required to submit a license amendment request and provide a basis for continuing the exemption.

As part of its review, the NRC staff has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft finding of no significant impact, enclosed. Please provide any comments on the draft EA within 30 days of receiving this letter. Comments should be submitted in writing by one of these means: through the Federal Rulemaking Web Site (go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2019-0027); through the U.S. mail to Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 (include Docket ID NRC-2019-0027 in the subject line); or by e-mail to JPG-EA@nrc.gov. The NRC staff will consider all comments we receive on the draft EA.

The NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>) Accession Number for the draft EA is ML19008A310. You can also access the draft EA at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1900/ML19008A310.pdf>.

If you have any questions about the proposed licensing action or the environmental review, please contact Ms. Christine Pineda, Project Manager for the EA, at (301) 415-6789 or via e-mail at Christine.Pineda@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cinthya I. Román, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8838
License No. SUB-1435

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment

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DATED: February 4, 2019

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