

## DRAFT VALUE/IMPACT STATEMENT

### 1. PROPOSED ACTION

#### 1.1 Description

An NRC source material license is required in order to process uranium solutions extracted from in situ uranium solution extraction operations. General guidance for filing an application is provided in §40.31 of 10 CFR Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material." Draft Regulatory Guide FP 818-4 provides specific guidance on the format and content of applications, including environmental reports, for licenses to authorize commercial-scale in situ uranium solution extraction operations. The guide conforms to NRC regulations and reflects experience gained over the past 5 years in actual licensing cases.

#### 1.2 Need for Proposed Action

Basic detailed guidance is essential to applicants for the efficient preparation of applications, including environmental reports, for commercial-scale in situ uranium solution extraction facility licenses and for their review by the NRC staff. Such guidance is presently delineated neither in NRC regulations nor in regulatory guides. Based on experience gained in the issuance of such licenses, the NRC staff has identified information that should be contained in applications (including environmental reports) to reflect present needs and practices. Such information in a regulatory guide will be helpful to both applicants and the NRC staff in reducing the cost and time involved in preparing and processing license applications.

#### 1.3 Value/Impact of Proposed Action

##### 1.3.1 NRC

The proposed guide describes the information needed from applicants for commercial-scale in situ uranium solution extraction facility license reviews by the NRC. It identifies present needs and reflects present practices. It should result in a significant reduction in the number of questions and requests

for clarification submitted by the NRC staff to applicants, improve the consistency in application reviews because of more uniform application submittals, reduce the amount of staff review effort in license processing, and expedite licensing actions.

#### 1.3.2 Other Government Agencies

Not applicable, unless the government agency is an applicant such as TVA.

#### 1.3.3 Industry

The value/impact on applicants and licensees will be essentially the same as indicated above.

#### 1.3.4 Public

Since there is no reduction or relaxation of any safety requirements, no impact on the public is anticipated other than an improved public understanding of information considered by the NRC staff in the licensing process.

### 1.4 Decision on Proposed Action

As indicated in Section 1.2, specific guidance on the format and content of applications (including environmental reports) for licenses to authorize commercial-scale in situ uranium solution extraction should be clearly delineated. Thus, Draft Regulatory Guide FP 818-4 should be issued.

## 2. TECHNICAL APPROACH

### 2.1 Technical Alternatives

None available.

### 2.2 Discussion and Comparison of Technical Alternatives

Not applicable.

### 2.3 Decision on Technical Approach

Not applicable.

## 3. PROCEDURAL APPROACH

### 3.1 Procedures Alternatives

Possible SD procedures that may be used to carry out the proposed action include the following:

- o Regulation
- o Regulatory guide
- o ANSI standard, endorsed by a regulatory guide
- o NUREG report
- o Branch position

### 3.2 Value/Impact of Procedural Alternatives

A regulation does not appear to be a reasonable alternative because guidance, rather than specific regulatory requirements, is needed. A NUREG report does not appear appropriate since a NUREG report usually contains only results of specific studies and/or basic research findings. No specific branch position has been prepared, nor is one anticipated. Preparation of a regulatory guide appears to be the most viable course of action.

### 3.3 Decision on Procedural Approach

A regulatory guide should be prepared delineating specific guidance on the format and content of applications (including environmental reports) for licenses to authorize commercial-scale in situ uranium solution extraction operations.



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