

OGLE PETROLEUM INC.

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P.O. Box 5549
559 SAN YSIDRO ROAD
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93108

September 5, 1980

PLEASE DIRECT REPLY TO:

150 North Nichols Avenue
Casper, Wyoming 82601
(307) 266-6456

Mr. J. E. Rothfleisch
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Division of Waste Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: Commercial Source Material
License Application, Docket
No. 40-8745

SUBJECT: Wyoming State Game and Fish
Department Letter dated
August 21, 1980

Dear Mr. Rothfleisch:

Ogle Petroleum Inc. (OPI) offers the following responses to the comments in the subject letter:

General Response:

OPI is somewhat confused over the comments in the subject letter. Subsequent to the November, 1979 Game and Fish Department comment letter mentioned in the subject letter, the Game and Fish Department officially notified the Wyoming DEQ (see attached letter) that it had no problems with OPI's Bison Basin Project. Now, in a letter dated August 21, 1980, the Game and Fish Department has expressed several concerns. The same information on wildlife OPI provided in the State application was also provided in the NRC Environmental Report.

Specific Comments:

Paragraph 2. The scope and nature of the wildlife investigation was predicated on the basis of the type of mining operation and the size of the project. The NRC staff, in the acceptance review of OPI's Environmental Report, decided that an in-situ mining operation in the Bison Basin area of Wyoming involving 13.5 acres of fenced area, 40 acres of wellfield, and employing approximately 30 people did not warrant an intense survey typical of a conventional mine and mill that disturbs thousands of acres and employs 200 to 600 people.

Paragraph 3. OPI is cognizant of the antelope mortality problem in connection with vehicle traffic. There are two factors that will help to reduce the antelope fatality rate. First, the nature of the access road is such that high speed travel typical of paved highways is not possible. Second, OPI will

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be bussing its employees to and from the mine site which will reduce the number of vehicles travelling on the road and, thereby, decrease the mortality rate.

Paragraph 4. OPI has no plans to fence the access road.

Paragraph 5. OPI has not observed sage grouse leks in or around the project area. The NRC biological consultant did not observe any sage grouse leks in or around the project area during his inspection of the site. This information is consistent with the statement in the subject letter that the Game and Fish Department has no data which indicate there are sage grouse leks within 16 km of the site.

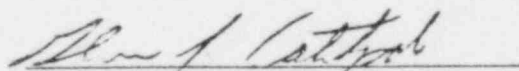
Paragraph 6. The Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed and approved OPI's reclamation plan. The attached letter from Mr. Robert Dorn of the Land Quality Division documents its position on this subject. The NRC staff feels that reclamation will not be easy but that it can be achieved if the measures outlined in the reclamation plan are followed.

Paragraph 7. OPI will not be allowed to fence the access road. Wildlife habitat will be restored through implementation of the reclamation plan.

OPI wishes to point out that no NRC responses to the subject letter are required since the letter was written after the end of the 45-day comment period specified in the Federal Register. OPI is unaware of any request for extension of the comment period pursuant to 10 CFR 51.25 nor are we aware of the NRC granting an extension. In the case of this letter, it was written more than 15 days after the termination of the comment period.

Sincerely,

OGLE PETROLEUM INC.


Glenn J. Catchpole
Project Manager

GJC:jm

Attachments

CC: Dr. Minton Kelly, ORNL w/Attachments
Document Management Branch w/Attachments



THE STATE OF WYOMING

OPI-WESTERN JOINT VENTURE
MAR - 6 1980

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Game and Fish Department

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

EARL M. THOMAS
DIRECTOR

February 11, 1980

Ed Francis

TO: Gary Beach

FROM: Harry Harju

COPIES TO: File

SUBJECT: Ogle Petroleum In-situ Uranium Mine - TFN 1 1/149

We have no further problem with the Ogle Petroleum In-situ uranium project. After talking to Glen Catchpole, our problems have been resolved.

HH:rv



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STATE OF WYOMING

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR*Department of Environmental Quality*

LAND QUALITY DIVISION

HATHAWAY BUILDING

TELEPHONE 307-777-7756

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

November 26, 1979

Glenn J. Catchpole
Project Manager
OPI-Western Joint Venture
150 North Nichols Avenue
Casper, WY 82601

Dear Glenn:

Concerning your inquiry about references documenting that reclamation has been successfully accomplished on areas with similar soils and climate to your project area, I know of no such references. Based on our experience with reclamation throughout Wyoming and my visit to your project site, I have no doubt that your area can be reclaimed. It is possible that first year attempts may be unsuccessful if unfavorable weather conditions occur in that year, but we seldom have unfavorable conditions two years in a row. A mulching program will protect the soil if such a situation does occur.

If I can be of further assistance, let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert D. Dorn".

Robert D. Dorn
Principal Environmental Analyst

RDD:sh
cc: Ed Francis