



FDR 40-8745

WYOMING EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT CHEYENNE

ED HERSCHLER GOVERNOR



July 29, 1980



Director Division of Waste Management U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sirs:

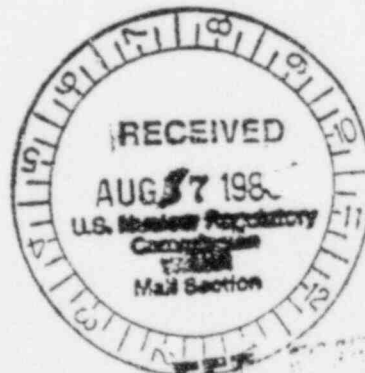
The Draft Environmental Statement related to the operation of the Bison Basin Project located in Fremont County, Wyoming, has been circulated for review by our state agencies. Copies of their comments are enclosed for your consideration and use in preparing the final analysis. Several of our agencies had commented on this project during the initial scoping process. I have enclosed copies of these previous comments so that you will have an entire set of the pertinent correspondence. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this draft document. Please keep me informed of any further progress on this project.

Sincerely,

Dick Hartman

Dick Hartman, State Planning Coordinator

DH:pcd enclosures



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ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

State Engineer's Office

BARRETT BUILDING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

July 17, 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dick Hartman, State Planning Coordinator

FROM: Louis E. Allen, Water Resources Engineer *LEA*

SUBJECT: Bison Basin Project, Ogle Petroleum, Inc., draft EIS for
in situ leach uranium mine, State Identifier Number 80-132

I see no surface water concerns for the subject project, other than necessity for obtaining any required State Engineer permits for evaporation ponds, etc., prior to construction.

Mike Penz of the State Engineer's Office, Groundwater Division, also reviewed the subject EIS and offered the following comments:

"Ogle Petroleum has two wells, U.W. 44853 and U.W. 44854, on the site with drinking water, sanitary supply, water for laboratory use, and equipment cleaning. These permits are in good standing.

They presently have permits U.W. 44137 and U.W. 44138 for multiple production and injection wells for the Bison Basin Project and have applied for more production injection wells on applications T.F. No. U.W. 14-8-253 and T.F. Nos. U.W. 14-5, 6, & 7-288. These applications should cover the ore body described in the draft EIS. They also have several monitor well permits and applications.

None of the above permits, or even the need for the permits, were mentioned in the draft EIS. Also the NRC did not describe the water supply for the plant site and processing facility, or discuss its adequacy for the proposed project. This is a water supply dependent project in an arid area yet the NRC does not seem to consider water supply important enough to be mentioned."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft EIS. Your referral memorandum is being returned as requested.

LEA/eb

Encl.

CC: George Christopoulos
State Engineer

Mike Penz
Ground Water Section

DANIEL N. MILLER, JR.
DIRECTOR AND
STATE GEOLOGIST
DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND
STAFF GEOLOGIST
GARY B. GLASS
STAFF GEOLOGISTS
RODNEY H. DE BRUIN
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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
BOX 3008, UNIVERSITY STATION
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

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June 27, 1980

Mr. Dick Hartman
State Planning Coordinator
Wyoming State Clearinghouse
2320 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Dan Hausel, Minerals Geologist, has reviewed the draft environmental statement - Bison Basin Project, Ogle Petroleum Inc. (I.D. No. 80-132) and has no comments to make at this time.

If your office or any other agency would like us to re-examine any part of this statement for any reason, please feel free to ask.

Sincerely,

Rodney H. De Bruin
Staff Geologist

RHDB:eb

*Department of Health and Social Services**Division of Health and Medical Services*

HATHAWAY BUILDING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. Cohen and Dr. Parish

FROM: Robert L. Coffman, MPH, Chief, Health Surveillance
and Control Services E

SUBJECT: Bison Basin Project - Ogle Petroleum Inc.
(in Situ Leach Uranium mine)

DATE: June 23, 1980

It appears from a very cursory perusal of the, Draft Environmental Statement" that Health Surveillance and Radiological Health (Edd Johnson) aspects may not have been investigated in their entirety.

The plant and construction's crew quarters, kitchen, food services facilities and similar aspects appear to be mentioned only in passing. The numbers of such people anticipated(initial and permanent) was not noted.

General additional project housing problems as have been experienced at Gillette, Rock Springs(Jim Bridger Plant) and Evanston do not appear to be adequately addressed. A mention of an additional 450 mobile home units and 1100 multi family home units(basic needs) is mentioned but is not really clarified as to location(Bond issue scheduled for Riverton to expand utilities).

It is felt at this time, great impact problems will be felt in the small communities of Lander, Riverton, Hudson, Jeffery City, South Pass City, etc., plus a distinct possibility of the development of an entirely new community exists.

RLC:bs



THE STATE OF WYOMING

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

TELEPHONE: (307) 777-7321

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

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- DR. HAROLD TUMA, DEAN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, LARAMIE

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 16, 1979

TO: State Planning Coordinator

FROM: Don Daiss, Assistant Commissioner
and Liaison Officer for E.I.S. Review

SUBJECT: Source Material License Application - Production
Scale In Situ Mine, Wyoming
State Identifier Number 79-144

The attached comments were received and are forwarded for your perusal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DDjh

Interagency



THE STATE OF WYOMING

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

TELEPHONE: (307) 777-7321

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

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November 2, 1979

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, LARAMIE

TO: Don Daïss
FROM: Kenneth R. Sturman *K.R.S.*
SUBJECT: In Situ Mine - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Southern Fremont County, Wyoming

This type of mining should have little or no affect on agriculture in that area. The grazing of domestic livestock will continue.

Very little ground water is used for livestock watering in the area.

Sufficient monitoring wells should be drilled to make certain that leaching chemicals do not penetrate other water production zones.

Surface runoff from the 40 acre mining area should be contained to eliminate any chance of contaminating other surface waters in the drainage area.

KS/av

The following contacts may be helpful in examining water impacts and a suitable reclamation plan:

Riverton Conservation District
320 East Lincoln
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-4806

Gerald Schuman
High Plains Grasslands Research
Station
Route #1, Box 698
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 778-2220 Extension 2434

*Department of Environmental Quality*

AIR QUALITY DIVISION

HATHAWAY BUILDING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

TELEPHONE 777-7391

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert E. Sundin
Director, Dept. of Environmental Quality

THROUGH: *for* Randolph Wood *CDE*
Administrator, Air Quality Division

FROM: Craig A. Strommen *CAS*
Air Quality Division

SUBJECT: Review of Ogle Petroleum's Environmental Report
on a Proposed In-Situ Uranium Mine in Fremont
County

DATE: November 14, 1979

I have reviewed, with respect to air quality, the above document and have the following comments:

1. In Section 6.3.1, the applicant states, "The carbonate leaching process for uranium will generate an insignificant quantity of atmospheric effluents". With respect to clarity, a statement should be made enumerating the types and quantities of effluents emitted.
2. I have found this application consistent with Wyoming's Air Quality Standards and Regulations, 1979.

*Department of Environmental Quality*

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT


HATHAWAY BUILDING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

TELEPHONE 307-777-7752

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mr. Robert E. Sundin

FROM: Mr. Charles A. Porter 

DATE: November 13, 1979

SUBJECT: Environmental Report for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Source Material License Application Production Scale In
Situ Mine Wyoming.

This facility will undoubtedly need to operate a solid waste disposal site to handle solid waste generated at the mine. However, there is no mention of such a facility in this report.



Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division

HATHAWAY BUILDING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

TELEPHONE 307 777-7781

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robert Sundin
Director
DEQ

THROUGH: William Garland
Administrator
Water Quality Division

FROM: A. J. Mancini *ajm*

DATE: November 14, 1979

SUBJECT: Comments on "Environmental Report for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Source Material License Application Production Scale In-Situ Mine Wyoming", by Ogle Petroleum Inc., dated August, 1979

Following are my comments on the subject report.

1. The Geologic map, Figure 2.4-1 on page 36 is unclear: Is Daley Lake Syncline Axis the trace of a fault, as shown on the map?

2. On page 35 it is stated, ".....forming a basin closed to the east, in the vicinity of Section 15, T26N, R95W. The Daley Lake Syncline forms a saddle within Section 36, T27N, R97W and a series of small separate closed basins to the west of McKay Lake, which is in Section 4, T26N, R97W". Presumably, this is significant. In as much as this description takes us from the Wind River Uplift across the continental divide and into the Great Divide Basin, just what is the significance? The map on page 36 indicates that the trend of the Daley Lake Syncline is to the northeast, away from the continental divide.

3. On page 51, are the three discontinuous sandstones below the "D" sands part of the 80-foot unit containing the "D", above the mudstone at the base of the Laney Member?

4. Section EE' apparently crosses the major fault shown on page 53, but the section (Figure 2.4-7) on page 43 shows no displacement. Is faulting as significant as indicated on page 54?

5.^a The description of the regional hydrology (page 62) of the Great Divide Basin doesn't seem apropos because this project area is not in the Great Divide Basin. Why not provide the regional hydrology for the project area as well?

6. True, the very local groundwater system may be as described in section 2.6.1.2; however, the local system is part of a larger system which has movement towards the Sweetwater River. If there is a closed groundwater basin in the project area, what is the evidence to support this concept?

7. Is the piezometric surface of the production zone aquifer higher than piezometric surfaces of overlying aquifers or the aquifers themselves? If so, which?

8. On page 196, is the "0.4 psig per foot of well depth" safe for this particular area? Is data available?

9. On Figure 3.2-2, page 198, monitor wells are shown "about 600' apart and 400' from edge of orebody". The five monitor wells for the R&D mining unit (page 195) are located about 200 feet from the boundaries of the R&D tract. Why the proposed increase to 400' for commercial production? How long (time) will it take fluid to reach a monitor well 400' distant, if the fluid is not recovered?

10. The typical well completion, Figure 3.2-4 on page 203, shows the cemented interval ending above the production zone. What is the probability of injection or recovery fluid getting into barren sand and moving laterally out of the leach area?

11. The procedures for well abandonment (page 266) do not appear to be adequate. The typical well completion shows casing only in the upper hole, with reclaimable screen in the lower hole. Cement should be placed opposite the production zone and any other uncased permeable zone.

12. Groundwater quality restoration is most significant. "Acceptable levels" must be determined by the State before the program (mining & restoration) is implemented.

DANIEL N. MILLER, JR.
DIRECTOR AND
STATE GEOLOGIST
DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND
STAFF GEOLOGIST
GARY B. GLASS
STAFF GEOLOGISTS
RODNEY H. DE BRUIN
V. DAN HAUSEL
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BOX 3008, UNIVERSITY STATION
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

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November 16, 1979

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Mr. Dick Hartman
State Planning Coordinator
Wyoming State Clearinghouse
2320 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Dan Hausel, Minerals Geologist has reviewed the Source Material License Application - Production Scale In Situ Mine, Wyoming (I.D. No. 79-144). He has made several comments which are attached.

If your office or any other agency would like us to reexamine any part of this statement for any specific purpose, please feel free to ask.

Sincerely,

Rodney H. De Bruin
Staff Geologist

RHD:mm
Enclosure

Response to Environmental Report by Ogle Petroleum Inc.

General Statement

Much of the statistical data presented in the environmental report on the mining industry of Fremont County and the State of Wyoming is too old to be meaningful.

Where is the evidence that suggests that the Plant site area and the R&D evaporation pond are not overlying uranium ore bodies? There is a question as to whether or not these two sites have been examined in sufficient detail to show if there is mineralization under these locations. If mineralization occurs under the sites, is it recoverable under present economic conditions?

Specific Inquiries

page 2- The last paragraph states that the design capacity is for production of up to 400,000 pounds U_3O_8 per year and on page 1, the reserves are estimated at 1,000,000 pounds U_3O_8 . How do they arrive at a five year life out of the mine, if it is operated at design capacity? After 2½ years of operation at capacity, the known reserves would be depleted!

page 23- Last paragraph, under Mineral Extraction, should include that the region produces 100% of feldspar mined in Wyoming and that uranium produced in the region is about 61% (1978 State Mine Inspector Reports and Ad Valorem Tax Division production reports). In that the Gas Hills are discussed in detail in the environment report, why was Natrona County omitted in the discussion, last year nearly 230,000 tons of uranium ore were produced from the Gas Hills district in Natrona County.

The last sentence in the paragraph is too old, and should be brought up to date.

page 24- The first paragraph claims that Wyoming ranked 11th in the United States for value of all mineral production in 1972. Production statistics and valuation has changed drastically since 1972, and such a statement has little meaning to the mining economics of 1979.

Table 2-2-9- More recent data is available from the Department of Energy. For example, see Dept. of Energy, GJO-100 (78).

page 24- The last paragraph is misleading in that the uranium boom of the mid-to-late 1970's appears to be stabilizing. Compared to the annual rate of inflation, the price per pound of yellowcake has actually dropped in value over the last two years. In addition, American Nuclear Corporation in July, 1979, announced plans to defer the opening of its Cotter Ferguson

POOR ORIGINAL

Mine indefinitely in the Gas Hills district for a number of reasons including the "flat" uranium price. I see that we are experiencing a uranium boom, however, I feel that the last paragraph on page 24 should be qualified.

page 25- First paragraph needs clarification. What does Union Oil and Utah International have to do with the uranium industry in Fremont County? Do you mean Minerals Exploration and Pathfinder Mines? What are the recent actions?

The 1975 production of uranium ore is presented in the second paragraph. More recent production figures are available and should be used.

3rd paragraph - The new mine in the Great Divide Basin of Sweetwater County (Minerals Exploration Sweetwater Mine) should be discussed briefly. The statements in this paragraph are very general and are not backed up by data. In this type of report, every effort should be made to support the statements with evidence.

page 26, 2nd paragraph- Iron production in Fremont County is entirely from U.S. Steel's Atlantic City open pit taconite mine. What is the reference for the 120,000,000 ton reserve of taconite and life expectancy of the mine?

page 27 - Table 2-2-10 and Table 2-2-11 are out of date.

page 38- Figure 2-4-2 shows a number of faults in the geologic cross-section. Faults may act as impermeable barriers to solutions, or they may act as permeable pathways for solutions. During the mine testing phase, were any of the faults or fractures investigated to determine if they would act as permeable channelways to the leachate solutions? If not, these fractures could present a problem, and as such, should be discussed in more detail in the environmental report. The general discussion on page 54 is inadequate.

POOR ORIGINAL

November 23, 1979

Mr. R. S. Kaufmann
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Waste Management, 483-ss
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kaufmann:

Enclosed please find Wyoming State Agency comments on the Environmental Report for the production-scale in situ mine proposed by Ogle Petroleum, Inc.

I would urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to scrutinize more fully the potential surface and groundwater impacts associated with the proposed in situ operation. Potential hydrological impacts should be examined in the light of current data on the hydrological/geological characteristics of the proposed permit area per se, as well as the hydrological/geological characteristics of the Sweetwater River System, in which the proposed project would be situated. Further hydrological information on the Great Divide Basin would be inappropriate because the project is not located in the Great Divide Basin.

Examination of the socioeconomic impacts of the proposed project is weak. The Environmental Report supplies three sets of general population projections for the three county region (ie. Fremont, Sweetwater and Carbon Counties), but fails to examine impacts which may be directly related to Ogle Petroleum's proposed activities. Ogle Petroleum makes no mention of the construction force that would be needed, both to build the personnel facilities described in the report and to make necessary roadway improvements. Secondary and tertiary impacts on population and on new investment, in terms of housing and public services should be treated in the draft environmental impact statement.

If Ogle Petroleum expects workers to settle in Jeffery City, a privately owned community made up almost solely of Western Nuclear employees and their families, it

POOR ORIGINAL

Mr. R. S. Kaufmann
November 23, 1979
Page 2

should investigate the possibility of having to negotiate an agreement with Western Nuclear for use of a proportion of the facilities and services which that company now provides to this community.

It would be helpful if, in the future, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would distribute the pertinent material for the scoping procedures in sufficient quantity and well in advance of the actual scoping meeting. For NRC to submit environment reports and any official announcements only several days in advance of the meeting substantially reduces the chances for meaningful discussion to take place between NRC, the applicant firm and the concerned state agencies, and largely defeats the purpose of holding a scoping meeting at all.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,

EH:nbj enclosures

POOR ORIGINAL

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

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Wyoming Recreation Commission

604 EAST 25TH STREET

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777-7695

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Riverton 82501

JACK D. OSMOND

P.O. Box 216

Thayne 83127

ALBERT PILCH

1800 Morse Lee

Evanston 82930

JACK FAIRWEATHER

1638 Omarr

Sheridan 82801

November 20, 1979

Dick Hartman
State Planning Coordinator
2320 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: 79-144, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

I have enclosed recommendations concerning archeological and historical clearance of the project and concur with them.

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) therefore recommends cultural clearance of the project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

John F. Carlson, Chief
Resources Division and
Deputy SHPO

FOR:

Jan L. Wilson, Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

JFC:klm
Encls.



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

Interdisciplinary Staff Comments

Archeology • History • Historical Architecture • Recreation Planning

TO: John Carlson, Chief
FROM: Greg Kendrick, Survey Historian *gk*
DATE: October 25, 1979
RE: Environmental Report for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Source Material License Application Production in Situ Mine, WY

An intensive archeological/historical survey of the lands in question was performed by George Zeimens in 1977. Moreover, Ned Frost has also recommended historical clearance. I see no problem following their earlier recommendation.

*Game and Fish Department*

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

EARL M. THOMAS
DIRECTOR

December 3, 1979

EAR 381, DEQ TFN 1 1/149
Ogle Petroleum, Inc.
In-situ Solution Mining for
Uranium, Fremont County.Gary Beach, Supervisor
Review and Analysis
Land Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Gary:

After review of the Environmental Assessment Report for this proposed in-situ uranium mine, we feel that an environmental impact statement is necessary. There are few wildlife data presented, and impact assessment is inadequate. Apparently little time was spent on this site; the document is largely, if not entirely, based on general literature. We suggest that an EIS be prepared and that adequate data be collected on the affected site. There seems to have been a good deal of effort expended on geology, hydrology, meteorology, and vegetation, but wildlife has been treated very sketchily. Only one field trip was made to the site, in November of 1977. Assessment for this project should include documentation of: seasonal use of this site by wildlife, numbers of animals, presence of critical wildlife habitat, presence of endangered species or incidence of raptors nesting or wintering on-site. The document frequently mentions that this site is marginal wildlife habitat, yet there is no evidence presented to support that conclusion. The one-time survey in November would not provide sufficient data to prove that contention.

In the EAR we are told that animals will be displaced off-site. If adjacent habitat is below carrying capacity, they may be displaced. If not, displacement is not possible. There is no documentation of the status of adjacent areas.

There has been no consideration of potential disruption of antelope migration, yet the proposed mine site bisects a north-south migration route. Impacts of traffic on this migration have not been considered. The access

Gary Beach
December 3, 1979
Page 2, EAR 381

road should be an unfenced, low-speed road. There are too many unanswered questions and too many potential problems from this project to allow an EAR to suffice. An EIS is needed.

The EAR states that the nearest sage grouse strutting ground is about 10 miles from the proposed mine. Our data were used as the basis for this statement. However, our knowledge of this area is incomplete—the area has not been intensively searched for strutting grounds. The Company should have done this before stating that there were no strutting grounds nearby. The mine site and access road should both have been thoroughly searched.

The report indicates that no raptor nesting habitat is on or near the mine site. The November survey could not have established that, because all raptors were through nesting much earlier in the year. The presence of prairie dogs on the site indicates potential habitat for both burrowing owls and black-footed ferrets, and prey for many other avian and mammalian predators.

A whooping crane from the Grays Lake foster program summered along the Sweetwater River in 1979. The area around Sweetwater Station produces large numbers of wetland species such as willets, American bittern, sora and Virginia rails, curlews, Canada geese, mallards, teal, and is the eastern most extent of nesting sandhill cranes. A large number of passerine bird species are associated with riparian habitat along the Sweetwater River.

We believe that present technology for restoration of aquifers is inadequate to ensure that groundwater is not contaminated. Technology for control of excursion of leaching solution is not currently developed enough to ensure that wetland habitat and wildlife water sources are not contaminated. This project could affect both wetland and aquatic wildlife habitat along the Sweetwater River.

We strongly urge that the applicant be required to prepare an environmental impact statement before the permit is issued for this in-situ uranium mine. Please contact us if we may be of further help on this project.

Sincerely,



W. DONALD DEXTER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

WDD:HBM:mlr

cc: James A. Kandolin, DEQ, Lander
cc: Game Division
cc: Fish Division

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

79-147

JAN 3 1980

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Wyoming Recreation Commission

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 Riverton 82501

JACK D. OSMOND
 P.O. Box 216
 Thayne 83127

ALBERT PILCH
 1800 Morse Lee
 Evanston 82930

JACK FAIRWEATHER
 1638 Omarr
 Sheridan 82801

JAN L. WILSON
Director
777-7695

January 2, 1980

Dick Hartman
State Planning Coordinator
2320 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Ogle Petroleum Inc.,
Bison Basin Uranium Project

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project.

I have enclosed recommendations concerning archeological and historical clearance of the project and concur with them.

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) therefore recommends cultural clearance of the project subject to those recommendations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

John F. Carlson, Chief
Resources Division and
Deputy SHPO

FOR:

Jan L. Wilson, Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

JFC:klm
Encls.



WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

Interdisciplinary Staff Comments

Archeology • History • Historical Architecture • Recreation Planning

TO: John Carlson
FROM: Tom Larson, Associate State Archeologist *TL*
DATE: November 7, 1979
RE: Ogle Petroleum Inc., Bison Basin Uranium Project

Archeological clearance is recommended for this project. Archeological investigations were completed for this project in 1977. Additional inventory will, however, be necessary if the area to be impacted is increased.





WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

Interdisciplinary Staff Comments

Archeology • History • Historical Architecture • Recreation Planning

TO: John Carlson, Chief
FROM: Greg Kendrick, Survey Historian
DATE: December 13, 1979
RE: Ogle Petroleum Inc., Bison Basin Uranium Project

No known historic sites either enrolled in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Historical clearance is therefore recommended.