



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
URANIUM RECOVERY FIELD OFFICE  
BOX 25326  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

JAN 05 1994

Docket 40-8968

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
ATTN: Jennifer Fowler-Probst  
State Supervisor  
3530 Pan American Freeway  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Dear Ms. Fowler-Probst:

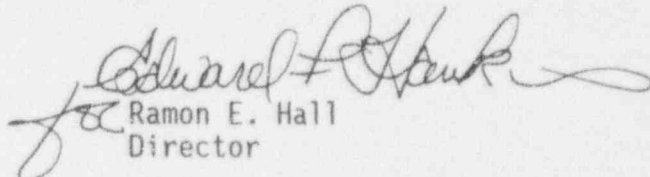
In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, NRC formally requests your agency's assistance in preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a uranium mining project in McKinley County, New Mexico. The NRC is lead agency for this review, and is preparing the EIS jointly with the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Our review responds to an application for a source material license and federal mineral leases submitted by Hydro Resources, Inc. The application is for three separate lease blocks near Church Rock and Crownpoint, and a main processing facility in Crownpoint. The applicant proposes to mine uranium using in situ leach (ISL) methods. We have indicated the locations of the proposed mining areas with enclosed maps. Details of the proposed operations, facilities, and procedures are summarized in Enclosure 1. A brief summary of the area's natural characteristics is included in Enclosure 2.

To assist you, we have also included details from the applicant's Environmental Reports describing ecological conditions in each of the areas. You will note that some of the information cited is regional in nature. The applicant is unable to access certain areas and collect specific field data until Federal mineral leases are issued.

We request that you review the general accuracy of the enclosed information, and identify listed wildlife species and critical habitat that may require special consideration in our review. This request was discussed informally with Karen Cathey during an office visit by Joel Grimm of my staff on November 29th. If you require any further information regarding this request, please call Mr. Grimm at (303) 231-5806.

Sincerely,

  
Ramon E. Hall  
Director

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Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: w/o enclosures

D. Sitzler, BLM

L. Robbins, BIA

G. Farris, BIA

M. Drywater, BIA

P. Rogers, Navajo Nation

R. Ohrbom, NMED

B. Garcia, RCPD, NM

E. Montoya, NM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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JAN 05 1994

bcc: w/o enclosures  
Docket No. 40-8968  
PDR/DCS  
URFO r/f  
DDChamberlain, RIV  
LLUR Branch, LLWM  
JPGrimm  
RVirgillio, OSP, 3D23  
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PM:URFO	DD:URFO <del>EPH</del>	D:URFO:RIV <del>EPH</del>		
JPGrimm/db	EFHawkins	REHall <del>EPH</del>		
12/30/93	12/4/94	12/4/94		