



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

April 6, 2020

Mr. Richard Begay
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Navajo Nation
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 86515

SUBJECT: CHURCH ROCK MILL SITE LICENSE AMENDMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS
OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN MCKINLEY COUNTY, NEW
MEXICO (DOCKET NUMBER: 040-8907)

Dear Mr. Begay:

General Electric/United Nuclear Corporation (UNC) submitted an application to amend its source material license (SUA-1475) in September 2018, in which they propose to excavate approximately 1 million cubic yards of mine waste from the Northeast Church Rock Mine Site and dispose of it at the adjacent UNC Mill Site. Included in that application were Historic and Cultural Resources Reports that identified cultural resources at the project location. Those reports were provided for your review in our November 26, 2019 letter.

By letters dated April 30, 2019 and November 26, 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff initiated its Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act and provided its proposed area of potential effect (APE) for the Church Rock license amendment request. The direct APE for this project consists of the area that may be directly affected by ground disturbance and waste transfer activities. For this project, the direct APE is approximately 370 acres. Given the nature of the undertaking, with limited permanent alteration to the present grade and appearance of the landscape, the NRC staff has determined that the indirect APE consists of the area within 1 mile of the direct APE, where potential visible, audible, or other effects could impact previously documented historic properties. In total the indirect APE covers 6,703 acres. A map showing the APE is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

The NRC staff is providing for your review and concurrence determinations of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. As we discussed during our December 2019 visit, four sites have been identified that fall within the APE on tribal land, those sites are: NM-Q-20-69, NM-Q-20-70, NM-Q-20-71, and NM-Q-20-72. All four sites are being recommended by NRC as eligible for listing. Enclosure 2 contains the site forms for the four sites. Both enclosures will be treated as non-public pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390 and 36 CFR 800.11(c).

The NRC staff requests your concurrence on the NRC's recommendations of eligibility within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Ashley Waldron by telephone at (301) 415-7317 or via email at Ashley.Waldron@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cinthya Román". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Cinthya I. Román, Chief
Environmental Review Materials Branch
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 040-8907
License No. SUA-1475

cc w/enclosure:
Sara Jacobs, EPA, Region 9

cc w/o enclosure:
Janet Brooks, EPA, Region 6
Lance Hauer, GE

Enclosure:
1. APE Map
2. Cultural Properties Form

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DATED: April 6,2020

ADAMS Package Accession Number ML20091G276

***via email**

OFC	NMSS/REFS/ERMB	NMSS/REFS/ERMB	OGC	NMSS/REFS/ERMB
NAME	AWaldron	*AWalker-Smith	*AGendelman	CRomán
DATE	03/25/2020	03/25/2020	04/1/2020	04/6/2020

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