

40-9048

# ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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September 14, 1998

Mr. Harold Lefevre  
Office of Nuclear Material Safeguards and Security  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 7J8  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Lefevre:

This letter represents the status report through the month of August 1998 on Argonne National Laboratory's work under your direction (Job Code J 52242: Technical Assistance in the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Licensing of the Reno Creek, Wyoming In-Situ Uranium Mine, International Uranium (USA) Corporation).

Progress made during August and project status was as follows:

## Subtask 1: Review License Application Materials

The ANL team reviewed application materials submitted by IUSA and Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc., the predecessor organization to IUSA. A third round of comments was generated based on the list of previously identified environmental issues assigned to ANL in June 1998 and on new issues identified during the review. The review of Round 1 and 2 comments and applicant responses resulted in the need to reopen some issues previously listed as closed.

Ed Pentecost and Konnie Wescott spent time identifying issues not yet resolved pertaining to Native American uses or potential use of the Reno Creek site. A cover letter was drafted for transmittal to Native American groups that explained the project and requested comments or concerns.

This subtask is about 85% complete. Efforts remaining include a review of the applicant's responses to State of Wyoming comments submitted on May 7, 1998 and an application amendment that addresses the new proposed wastewater disposal system.

## Subtask 2: Preparation of Designated Portions of a Draft Environmental Assessment

ANL initiated work to prepare early draft EA sections on the Affected Environment chapter.

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**Subtask 3: Preparation of Final Environmental Assessment**

No effort was expended on this subtask.

The following is a listing of effort expenditure by technical area during August:

	<u>Effort (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Effort (hours)</u>
Project Management	24	76
Ecology	16	64
Cultural Resources	24	52
Socioeconomics	-	4
Air Quality, Meteorology	-	50
Noise	-	5
Aesthetics	-	10
Transportation	-	15
Secretarial	1	9

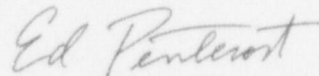
The following table shows the project costs for each subtask through August. The actual expenditure of \$5.8K is below the estimated charges for August of \$24.4K due in part to the low number of new environmental issues identified for Round 3 comments in the review of application materials. ANL also assumed in the original cost estimate that a greater effort would be expended in August in developing preliminary sections of the draft EA.

Further work on review of application materials is beyond the original scope of work identified in the original 189 because of the applicant's design changes to the wastewater disposal system. An estimated expenditure of \$10K may be necessary to complete additional work under subtask 1.

	<u>Costs-August 1998</u>	<u>Costs-FY 98</u>	<u>Funds Remaining</u>
Subtask 1	\$5,848	\$26,900	0
Subtask 2	\$1,947	\$1,947	\$51,953
Subtask 3	-	-	\$31,500

If you have questions concerning the status report don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Edwin D. Pentecost, PhD  
Environmental Assessment Division

cc: J. Halvorsen, NRC