

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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March 11, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Lefevre:

This letter represents the status report through the month of February 1999 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 February and project status was as follows:

Subtask 1: Review License Application Materials

This subtask is about 85% complete. Efforts remaining include a review of the applicant's revised application package and responses to State of Wyoming comments on their last round of comments.

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

ANL has completed early draft EA sections on the Affected Environment chapter. We are awaiting review comments from NRC before making revisions. Some revisions will be needed once the responses to Round 3 requests for additional information are received from IUSA and the State of Wyoming responds officially to IUSA responses. Ed Pentecost, and Kirk LaGory assisted with the a review of the responses received on letters NRC sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. No additional effort will be expended on this task until NRC authorizes a re-start of the project. **ANL was asked to suspend all work on the project effective March 1, 1999 until IUSA revises application materials and resubmits materials to NRC.**

Subtask 3: Preparation of Final Environmental Assessment

No effort was expended on this subtask.

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

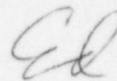
	<u>Effort (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative Effort (hours)</u>
Project Management	24	194
Ecology	8	80
Cultural Resources	-	72
Socioeconomics	3	27
Air Quality, Meteorology	-	94
Noise	-	39
Aesthetics	-	48
Transportation	-	15
Secretarial	-	35

The following table shows the project costs for each subtask through February. I increased the total funds remaining for subtask 2 by \$10K to reflect additional funding received from your budget office this fiscal year. The total project cost estimate for ANL work is \$122,300.

	Docket No. 40-9048; TAC No. L51622		
	<u>Costs-February 1999</u>	<u>Costs-FY 98,99</u>	<u>Funds Remaining</u>
Subtask 1	-	\$26,900	0
Subtask 2	\$3,779	\$45,693	\$18,207
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