

**From:** [Linton, Ron](#)  
**To:** [Ennis, David, EMNRD](#); [Shepherd, Holland, EMNRD](#)  
**Cc:** [Von Till, Bill](#); [Irvin, Ian](#)  
**Subject:** NuFuels, Inc., Proposal to Conduct a Bench Scale ISR Restoration Demonstration using Core Material from the Churchrock Section 8 Location  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 10:36:00 AM

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Mr. David Ennis, P.G.  
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
[david.ennis@state.nm.us](mailto:david.ennis@state.nm.us)

RE: Crownpoint Uranium Project, NRC Materials License SUA-1580, NuFuels, Inc.,  
Proposal to Conduct a Bench Scale ISR [In Situ Recovery] Restoration Demonstration  
using Core Material from the Churchrock Section 8 Location, Rev: 8/13/2020

Dear Mr. Ennis:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the document, "Proposal to Conduct a Bench Scale ISR Restoration Demonstration using Core Material from the Churchrock Section 8 Location" (workplan) and has determined the workplan would not affect our license as the drilling for core material for bench scale testing would be considered exploration and not directly regulated by NRC.

The NRC staff notes the workplan states, "After completion of geophysical logging the drill holes will be plugged and abandoned with a cement mixture, in adherence with the regulations of the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer for uranium exploration drill holes." We agree that the drill holes should be properly abandoned.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice," a copy of this correspondence will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Ron C. Linton  
Project Manager/Hydrogeologist  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs  
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**From:** [Ennis, David, EMNRD](#)  
**To:** [Linton, Ron](#)  
**Cc:** [Shepherd, Holland, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Crownpoint Uranium Project SUA-1580  
**Date:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:13:54 AM

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Mr. Linton,

My name is David ("DJ") Ennis and I am a reclamation specialist with the State of New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division ("MMD"). Recently, we have been talking to Laramide Resources/NuFuels about their Crownpoint Uranium Project, which is NRC license SUA-1580.

NuFuels is proposing to drill 4 boreholes within Section 8, T16N R16W, in order to collect core samples to perform bench-scale chemistry and recovery studies. MMD typically requires an exploration permit in order to perform this type of work, however there's also some discussion about whether this type of exploration is regulated by the NRC and/or whether it's covered by the NRC license.

In short, I was hoping that my supervisor (Holland Shepherd, copied on this email) and I could setup a date & time to ask you a few questions in order to get a clearer picture about NRC's role for this proposed exploration. We also have questions about whether material license SUA-1580 is truly active or not. It appears that renewal of SUA-1580 is being held "in abeyance until further notice" (as of 2014).

Is there a date maybe next week we could setup a call with you? I wouldn't expect it to take any longer than perhaps 30 minutes or so.

Thanks,  
DJ

*DJ Ennis, P.G.  
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**NOTE NEW CELL/OFFICE PHONE NUMBER:  
(505) 372-8634**