



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

May 25, 2021

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Mr. Thomas Brings, Tribal Historic  
Preservation Officer  
Natural Resources Regulatory  
Agency  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
P.O. Box 320  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
[t.brings@oglala.org](mailto:t.brings@oglala.org)

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INPUT REGARDING ELEMENTS OF A SURVEY  
METHODOLOGY TO IDENTIFY TRIBAL SITES FOR THE CROW BUTTE IN  
SITU URANIUM RECOVERY LICENSE RENEWAL PROCEEDING (DOCKET  
NUMBER 40-8943)**

Dear Mr. Brings:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff would like to thank you and other members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who participated in the initial site visit at the Crow Butte Resources, Inc. (CBR) in situ uranium recovery (ISR) facility near Crawford, Nebraska, conducted on May 18, 2021. The initial site visit, led by CBR, offered an orientation and opportunity for you and your colleagues to observe the location of the facility, the location of wellfields and associated buildings, disturbed and undisturbed areas within the license area boundary, and the site's landscape. During the site visit, the group also visited nine tribal cultural sites identified during the field surveys conducted in the 1980s.

Now that the initial site visit has been completed, the NRC staff requests the Tribe's input on elements of a survey methodology that the Tribe considers important to identifying and evaluating sites of significance to the Tribe. The NRC staff requests that the Tribe provide this input in writing by June 11, 2021.

As described in the NRC staff's March 5, 2021 letter (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML21061A263), the survey would entail examination of the Crow Butte ISR site to identify historic, cultural, and religious sites of significance to the Tribe within the license area boundary (2,875 acres). When formulating your input, please consider the following information:

- As described during the pre-site visit meeting on May 13, 2021, and shown during the initial site visit, the area where operations are occurring has been significantly disturbed (e.g., by construction of underground pipe systems and wells).

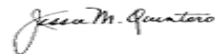
- The proposed action is a license renewal for the currently operating ISR facility; CBR has not proposed any significant land disturbance beyond the already disturbed area during the license renewal term or during decommissioning and reclamation.
- As mentioned in the February 8 meeting (see meeting summary at ADAMS Accession No. ML21057A131), because this is an operating facility, safety and security measures may limit the nature or extent of activities that could be conducted during a site survey.
- The goal of the survey is to identify sites (i.e., physical locations) of significance to the Tribe within the license area boundary, including both those that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and those that are not.

The NRC staff looks forward to receiving the Tribe's written input by June 11, 2021.

In accordance with Section 2.390 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Diana Diaz-Toro or Ms. Jean Trefethen of my staff. Ms. Diaz-Toro can be reached at (301) 415-0930 or via e-mail at [Diana.Diaz-Toro@nrc.gov](mailto:Diana.Diaz-Toro@nrc.gov). Ms. Trefethen can be reached at (301) 415-0867 or via e-mail at [Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov](mailto:Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Quintero, Jessie  
on 05/25/21

Jessie M. Quintero, Chief  
Environmental Review Materials Branch  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8943  
License No. SUA-1534

cc:  
Harold Salway, Director  
Natural Resources Regulatory Agency  
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Andrew Reid, Esq.  
Counsel for the Oglala Sioux Tribe

Letter to Thomas Brings, THPO, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Requesting Input on Elements of a Site Survey Methodology for the Crow Butte In Situ Uranium Recovery License Renewal Proceeding DATE May 25, 2021

**ADAMS Accession No.: ML21144A327; Ltr ML21144A326**

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DATE	May 25, 2021			

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