



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

September 23, 2021

Mr. Clyde Estes, Chairman Lower
Brule Sioux Tribe
of the Lower Brule Reservation 187
Oyate Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548

SUBJECT: WESTERN NUCLEAR INC. – EVALUATION OF THE WYOMING COMPLETION
REVIEW REPORT

Dear Chairman Lower Estes:

We are sending you this letter because we identified your Tribe as being potentially interested in the license termination of the Western Nuclear, Inc. (WNI) Split Rock uranium milling site located in Fremont County, Wyoming. In a letter to your Tribe dated October 30, 2020,¹ the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff explained the process and review activities for the termination of the license by the State of Wyoming and transfer of the site to the Department of Energy (DOE) for the long-term care and maintenance. The letter also stated that the NRC would inform you of the final results of the NRC's evaluation of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) Completion Review Report (CRR).

The purpose of this letter is to inform your Tribe that the NRC staff has completed its review of the CRR for the Wyoming Source Material License No. WYSUA-0056 issued to WNI. As discussed in more detail in NRC's letter to WYDEQ dated August 3, 2021,² the NRC staff found that the license termination activities at the WNI site has met all applicable standards and requirements for the protection of the public health, safety and environment based on NRC's evaluation in the CRR and review of the WYDEQ's uranium recovery program. This finding is a necessary step toward the termination of the WNI license. Upon acceptance of the DOE's Long-Term Surveillance Plan, conveyance of needed property rights, and the setting and payment of the Long-Term Care Fee, the NRC will concur on the CRR. Following concurrence on the CRR, Wyoming may proceed to terminate the license for the Split Rock site, including any final site configuration (such as plugging and abandoning wells) not necessary for DOE's long-term ground water monitoring program.

¹ Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20303A205.

² ADAMS Accession No. ML21106A181.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Whited via email at Jeffrey.Whited@nrc.gov or via telephone at 301-415-4090.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Signed by Arribas-Colon, Maria
on 09/23/21

Maria Arribas-Colon, Chief
Materials Safety and Tribal Liaison Branch
Division of Materials Safety, Security, State
and Tribal Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-1162

WESTERN NUCLEAR INC. – EVALUATION OF THE WYOMING COMPLETION REVIEW REPORT
 DATE September 23, 2021

DISTRIBUTION:

ADAMS Accession No.: ML21242A126; ML21242A127

OFFICE	OEDO	NSIR/DPR/OB	NMSS/REFS/ERMB	NMSS/DUWP /URMDB
NAME	MArribas-Colon MA	JWhited JW	JCaverly JC	TLancaster TL
DATE	Aug 31, 2021	Aug 31, 2021	Aug 31, 2021	Sep 8, 2021
OFFICE	NMSS/MSST/SLPB	OGC/GCRPS/RMR /NLO	OEDO	
NAME	SPoy SP	AGendelman AG	MArribas-Colon MA	
DATE	Sep 9, 2021	Sep 22, 2021	Sep 23, 2021	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY