

From: [James Park](#)
To: [James Park](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Review and Comment on Rare Element Resources Draft Environmental Assessment
Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 9:33:58 AM

From: James Park
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 11:21 AM
To: nancy.vehr1@wyo.gov
Subject: Request for Review and Comment on Rare Element Resources Draft Environmental Assessment

Nancy E. Vehr, Administrator
Air Quality Division
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Dear Ms. Vehr:

Please find attached a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The draft EA provides the NRC staff's evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of Rare Element Resources' (RER's) proposed Demonstration Plant to be located near Upton, Wyoming.

At this facility, RER proposes to demonstrate its proprietary process to extract and separate rare earth elements from an approximately 1,000 ton exploration sample. During processing, thorium in the exploration sample would be concentrated to a level necessitating a source material license from the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 40.

By this email, the NRC staff respectfully requests the review of its draft EA by your staff and by staff in other divisions of the Wyoming DEQ (WDEQ), as appropriate, and the NRC staff appreciates any comments that result from this review. As noted in the draft EA header, the draft EA is pre-decisional and so should not be disclosed outside of WDEQ without prior NRC permission. I am directing this request to your attention, because on August 11, 2022, the WDEQ Air Quality Division issued Authorization Letter P0035643 to RER, having determined RER's Demonstration Plant to be insignificant in emission rate and ambient air quality impact, and issuing the permit with specified conditions.

The NRC staff requests WDEQ's comments on the draft EA by Monday, June 26, 2023. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at this email address: James.Park@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
James

James Park, Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission