Pre-Application Meeting with Grants Precision ISR — December 2, 2025 — 1:25 PM

Corrected Readable Transcript — Section 1

Pre-Application Meeting with Grants Precision ISR

December 2, 2025 – 1:25 PM

(Readable, lightly edited; standardized timestamps)

00:00:00 **System Note:**
Jim Smith started transcription.

Introductions and Pre-Meeting Setup

00:00:27 **Charles Lundstrom:**
Hi Jim, this is Charles Lundstrom. We're here in Grants.

00:00:35 **Jim Smith:**
Hey Charles, Bill. I'm here in Rockville, still waiting for everyone to start.

00:00:40 **Charles Lundstrom:**
OK, good.

00:00:43 **Jim Smith:**
I think we have about four minutes before starting.

00:00:46 **Charles Lundstrom:**
I have my door open for the public. I have one member of the public here.
We're setting up the camera so anyone can come in. I sent out a lot of emails, but so far only one person showed up.

00:01:03 **Jim Smith:**
I've also received several requests from members of the public to join the Teams meeting.

00:01:10 **Charles Lundstrom:**
OK.

00:01:11 **Jim Smith:**
I think around ten people.

00: 01: 13 **Charles Lundstrom:**
Good — the more the merrier. We'll get the information out.

00: 01: 16 **Jim Smith:**
Yeah. At least you won't feel alone on camera.

Additional Participants Joining

00: 03: 00 **Daria Sayan:**
Hi, Jim.

00: 03: 01 **Jim Smith:**
Good afternoon.

00: 03: 01 **Daria Sayan:**
Good afternoon.

00: 03: 04 **Jim Smith:**
Is it afternoon where you are?

00: 03: 06 **Daria Sayan:**
Still morning, but close.

00: 03: 07 **Jim Smith:**
OK.

00: 03: 08 **Charles Lundstrom:**
Hey Daria.

00: 03: 10 **Daria Sayan:**
Hi Charles.

00: 03: 11 **Charles Lundstrom:**
Jim, just letting you know I have one member of the public here, and hopefully more will trickle in.

00: 03: 12 **Jim Smith:**
Great.

Beginning the Meeting

00: 03: 20 **Jim Smith:**
As I mentioned, around ten members of the public have requested to join. I've added them to Teams. When we start, I'll ask everyone online to introduce themselves and say who they're with. Then I'll give a short introduction about the meeting.

00: 03: 50 **Daria Sayan:**
Sounds good.

Roll Call and Meeting Opening

00: 04: 24 **Jim Smith:**
It's 1:30 PM, but a few people haven't joined yet. Still don't see Marti.

00: 05: 36 **Bill Von Till:**
Marti's on, Jim.

00: 05: 38 **Jim Smith:**
OK, good. Someone just asked for a Teams link, so I sent that.
All right, it's 1:31 on the East Coast.

My name is **James Smith**, the new project manager for this proposed license with Grants Energy.

This is an **observation meeting**. Attendees may observe the NRC performing its regulatory functions or discussing regulatory issues. After the business portion, members of the public may ask questions or make comments.

The NRC is **not** soliciting comments related to regulatory decisions today.

In past meetings, we've allowed questions to the applicant or pre-applicant during the public comment period. They are not required to respond, but may do so voluntarily.

People are still joining.

Project Overview

00: 07: 12 **Jim Smith:**
On May 1, 2025, Grants Energy submitted a Letter of Intent to the NRC indicating their plan to apply for a license to construct and operate a uranium in-situ recovery facility near Grants, New Mexico.

Representatives of Grants Energy are meeting with the NRC staff today to discuss aspects of the project.
This is a continuation of earlier pre-licensing meetings focusing on development of the **radiation safety program**.

Before introductions, one request:
If you have a copy of your presentation, please send it to me. We are generating a meeting summary, and we're also attempting automated transcription. We'll edit it for accuracy. If you send the presentation, we will include it in ADAMS along with the summary and attendee list.

00: 08: 32 **Daria Sayan:**
Yes, we'll send it.

Transition to Applicant Presentation

00: 08: 33 **Jim Smith:**
OK. I don't see any hands up and it looks like everyone is here.
Daria, will you be presenting?

00: 08: 46 **Daria Sayan:**
Partially — our team will co-present. But I can give a brief introduction on behalf of the team if you'd like.

00: 08: 54 **Jim Smith:**
Yes, please.

End of Section 1

Corrected Readable Transcript — Section 2

Team Introductions & Start of Presentation

Applicant Introductions

00:08:57 **Daria Sayan:**
I'm with Grants Energy as the Director of Regulatory Affairs.
On the line, we have:

- **Dr. Ben Russ**, Director of Development
- **Stuart Heap**, Engineer
- **Jim Hopkinson**, Hydrologist
- **Mike Russell** and **Matthew Anderson**, Geologists

From WWC, supporting us with permitting, we have:

- **Ben Shiffer**
- **Beth Wilson**

From ERG, our subcontractor leading the radiological baseline survey, we have:

- **Randy Whicker**, Team Lead
- **Brian Erdmann**
- (Possibly another team member; Randy will confirm.)

And on camera, in the room in Grants:

- **Charles Lundstrom**, Community Engagement Manager and Environmental Protection Manager for Grants Energy.

00:10:32 **Bryan Erdmann:**
Yes, that's everyone from ERG.

00:10:33 **Daria Sayan:**
Great.

NRC Introductions

00:10:35 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you. I'll introduce myself again: I'm James Smith, the new project manager. People call me Jim, but my official NRC address uses James, so if you email "Jim Smith," you may not reach me.
My email is **james.smith@nrc.gov**.

Bill, would you like to go next?

00: 11: 08 **Bill Von Till:**
Sure. **Bill Von Till**, Branch Chief for the Uranium Recovery and Materials Decommissioning Branch.
I'll turn it over to Marti and Chris.

00: 11: 19 **Martha Poston-Brown:**
Hi, I'm **Martha Poston-Brown**, Senior Health Physicist in Bill's group. I'll be supporting this project.
Chris, don't forget Dana.

00: 11: 42 **Christopher Young:**
Hi, I'm **Chris Young**, a relatively new health physicist at NRC. Marti is training me, and I'll be assisting with this project.

00: 11: 56 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you. Let me see who else is on the line.

00: 11: 59 **Martha Poston-Brown:**
We've also got Deanna and Robert Sun.

00: 12: 02 **Jim Smith:**
Right. Deanna and Robert Sun.

00: 12: 05 **Robert Sun:**
Hey everyone. I'm **Robert Sun**, Branch Chief of the Environmental Project Management Branch.
Daria, good to see you.
We joined at the last minute thinking we might have missed something. If today isn't covering environmental topics, we can drop off unless needed.

00: 12: 15 **Daria Sayan:**
Correct — today is not focused on environmental review.

00: 12: 25 **Robert Sun:**
If you don't need us, we'll drop off. If you do, we're happy to stay. Always good to see everyone.

00: 12: 33 **Jim Smith:**
You're welcome to stay as long as you like.

Public Attendees

00: 13: 12 **Charles Lundstrom:**
I have a member of the public here.

00: 13: 15**Jim Smith:**
Yes — please go ahead.

00: 13: 15 **Gary Miller (public):**
My name is Gary Miller. I live here in Grants.

00: 13: 20 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you.

00: 13: 21 **Andrea Jennetta:**
This is **Andrea Jennetta**, with S&P Global.

00: 13: 29 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you.

00: 13: 41 **Aaron Sims:**
Good afternoon. I'm **Aaron Sims**, an attorney with Chestnut Law Offices in Albuquerque. We represent the **Pueblo of Acoma** as general counsel.

00: 13: 55 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you.

00: 14: 01 **Sarah Fields:**
This is **Sarah Fields**, with Uranium Watch in Moab, Utah.

00: 14: 07 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you.

00: 14: 12 **Olga Symeonoglou:**
Hello — this is **Olga Symeonoglou** with Hobbs Straus, also representing the Pueblo of Acoma.

00: 14: 17 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you.

00: 14: 29 **Srikanth Paladugu:**
Good morning. I'm **Sri Paladugu**, Bureau Chief for Radiation Control with the New Mexico Environment Department.

00: 14: 36 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you.

Meeting Recording Notice

00: 14: 36 **Jim Smith:**
Before we continue, I want to note that the meeting is being recorded to support the written summary.
We're also generating an automated transcript, which we'll edit for accuracy.
The presentation and summary will be added to ADAMS roughly 10 days after we receive the presentation file.

Transition to Presentation

00: 15: 21 **Jim Smith:**
With that, I'll turn it over to whoever will present.

00: 15: 30 **Daria Sayan:**
I'll start by thanking both the regulators and members of the public for joining us today.
We appreciate your time and interest in the project.
We're especially glad to see Aaron and his team. We've been making a concerted effort to ensure Acoma is involved in project planning.

I'll begin with a brief update on our baseline data collection plans, then I'll turn it over to Randy Whicker for the radiological baseline survey portion.

Baseline Data Collection Overview

00: 15: 42–00: 19: 16 **Daria Sayan:**
(Summarized into a clean, clear narrative while preserving full meaning.)

- **Air Quality:**
    - Meteorological station has been operating for several months.
    - Passed the 3-month audit and is approaching the 6-month audit.
    - Data collection is on schedule.
- **Cultural Resources:**

    - Class III field survey completed across the project area.
    - Currently conducting informal consultations with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to review findings.
    - Hoping to conduct on-site visits for additional input.
- **Aquatic Resources:**
    - Field surveys completed.
    - Several streams identified, but no jurisdictional waters of the U.S.
- **Soils, Vegetation, Wildlife:**
    - Soil and vegetation characterization complete.
    - Wildlife species surveys underway.
    - Scoping letters sent to Tribes and land management agencies (BLM, Forest Service, etc.) to identify any species of concern.
- **Surface Water Hydrology:**
    - Sampling and analysis plan completed.
    - Subcontractor selected.
- **Groundwater Pump Test:**
    - Met with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer.
    - Finalizing well designs for upcoming pump test and groundwater sampling.

All of this supports our planned **September 2026** submissions:

- NRC license application
- New Mexico state permit application

I'll now turn it over to Randy to discuss radiological baseline survey plans.

Start of Radiological Presentation

00:19:16 **Randy Whicker:**
Good morning, everyone. Thank you for attending.
(He begins describing project location, geology, site layout, and monitoring concepts.)

End of Section 2

(This section covers Randy Whicker's radiological baseline survey presentation.)

Corrected Readable Transcript — Section 3

Radiological Baseline Survey Presentation (Part 1)

Project Location & Setting

00: 19: 16 **Randy Whicker:**
Good morning, everyone. Thank you for attending.

This introductory slide summarizes the project location and key features:

- The project is in the **upper San Mateo Creek Basin**, spanning **Cibola and McKinley Counties**.
- It's about **20 miles northeast of Grants, NM**, in the center of the **Grants Mineral Belt**.
- The site lies along the northern edge of the **Mount Taylor volcanic field**, near the village of **San Mateo** (population under 1,000).
- It is adjacent to the **Mount Taylor underground uranium mine**, now in decommissioning.
- The deposit is the **largest known contiguous uranium ore resource in the U.S.**
- On the map:
    - The **yellow outline** is the project area.
    - The **maroon outline** marks the former Mount Taylor underground mine boundary.
    - The **white ring** shows proposed monitoring well locations.
    - The **star (CPP)** marks the proposed central processing plant.

- **San Mateo Creek** and the **Asequía irrigation system** are shown in turquoise.

Regional Landscape and Mining District

00:21:00 **Randy Whicker:**
The project area is classic **Northwestern New Mexico mesa-and-canyon terrain**, capped by volcanic flows from Mount Taylor.

It sits in the **southeastern corner of the Ambrosia Lake mining district**, which historically supported three uranium mills:

- Rio Algom (Phillips mill site)
- Homestake (further south/west)
- A third facility near the tailings piles

There were dozens of historical mines in the district. They were located where deposits were shallow and accessible by underground methods.

Nearby mesas include:

- **San Mateo Mesa** (north)
- **Poison Canyon** (west)
- **La Jara Mesa** (volcanic cap above sandstone)

Regional Geologic Structure

00:24:18 **Randy Whicker:**
The target ore zone lies **over 3,000 feet deep** in the **Morrison Formation (West Water Canyon Member)**.

Key points:

- At Ambrosia Lake, uranium-bearing West Water Canyon sandstone is much **shallower**, which is why historical mines were located there.
- At the Grants Energy site, the strata **dip northeast**, making deposits significantly deeper.

- The West Water Canyon aquifer at our site is too deep for domestic or agricultural use, so there are **no direct exposure pathways** from that aquifer to the public.

Proposed ISR Extraction Method

00:25:30 **Randy Whicker:**
The project proposes combining **conventional ISR** techniques with **horizontal drilling technology** used in the oil and gas industry.

- No hydraulic fracturing is proposed.
- Horizontal drilling increases precision in targeting ore bodies.
- This may reduce surface disturbance by **up to 95%**.
- It can reduce sources of potential effluent releases.
- The application will also include conventional vertical well designs.

Regulatory Guidance Used

00:26:45 **Randy Whicker:**
Two primary NRC guidance documents informed the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP):

1. **Regulatory Guide 4.14 (1980)**
    - Radiological Effluent and Environmental Monitoring at Uranium Mills
    - Although written for conventional mills, it has historically been applied to ISR facilities.
2. **NUREG-1569**
    - Standard Review Plan for ISR license applications

Other guidance considered:

- **Regulatory Guide 4.15** – Quality Assurance for Environmental Monitoring
- Additional NRC technical references

Environmental parameters to be characterized include:

- Geospatial gamma radiation

- Ambient gamma dose
- Air particulates
- Radon gas
- Surface & subsurface soils
- Sediments
- Groundwater
- Surface water
- Vegetation and food chain pathways

Environmental Fate & Transport Considerations

00: 28: 10 **Randy Whicker:**
Airborne and groundwater parameters are **dynamic systems**.
We must consider:

- **Air particulate transport** (daytime winds)
- **Radon gas drainage** (nighttime cold-air downslope flow)
- **Multiple aquifers** with different gradients

Prevailing wind patterns:

- Daytime: strong winds from the **west/southwest**, capable of transporting particulates
- Nighttime: **downslope drainage** toward the **west/southwest**, transporting radon

Groundwater monitoring requires locating both **upgradient and downgradient** sampling points.

Historical Meteorological Data

00: 29: 40 **Randy Whicker:**
Two historical MET stations inform the air monitoring design:

1. **Roca Honda MET station (2007–2010)**

2. **Mount Taylor MET station (1976)**

Both show **bifurcated wind patterns**:

- Strong daytime westerly/southwesterly winds
- Nighttime easterly/southeasterly drainage flows

This difference is crucial because **gross air particulates and radon gas move in opposite directions**.

Radon Dispersion Modeling

00:31:10 **Randy Whicker:**
To ensure our monitoring stations capture true upwind/downgradient behavior for radon, we ran a dispersion model:

- Used **CALMET/CALPUFF**
- Simulated radon released from a hypothetical **10-meter stack** at the proposed CPP
- Used **three years of WRF mesoscale meteorological data**

Results:

- Radon follows the **San Mateo Creek valley**, moving **down-valley**.
- Patterns reflect both daytime synoptic winds and nighttime drainage.
- Output is shown in **χ/Q values** (concentration normalized to release rate).

This modeling helps confirm where to place radon and gamma dosimetry stations.

Conceptual Site Model

00:33:45 **Randy Whicker:**
We developed a **comprehensive conceptual site model**, covering:

- Potential emission sources
- Affected media
- Transport mechanisms
- Exposure pathways to humans and the environment

This model:

- Is based partly on studies from Roca Honda and Mount Taylor
- Supports the SAP design
- Will inform worker and public dose assessments required for licensing

Solid lines indicate major pathways; dotted lines indicate minor or incomplete pathways.

Radiological Constituents of Concern

00:35:30 **Randy Whicker:**
Primary radionuclides of interest:

- **Uranium-238**
- Its full decay chain, especially **Radium-226**

Radium-226 is critical because:

- It governs **gamma radiation** and **radon** levels
- It has a **1,600-year half-life**
- It is readily detected through gamma surveys

Thus, characterizing the **terrestrial gamma environment** is a major focus.

Clarification for Public Audience

00:39:09 **Daria Sayan:**
I want to clarify for the public:
Any radiological constituents released from operations are **naturally occurring elements already present** underground in the ore body or groundwater.

We are not creating new radioactive materials; we are **removing uranium** from groundwater and ore zones as part of a closed-loop process.

The goal is to characterize current natural conditions and evaluate any change during ISR operations.

Gamma Survey Design

00:40:14 **Randy Whicker:**
Key points:

- **Sodium iodide detectors** mounted 1 meter above the ground
- **40-meter transect spacing**, representing ~10% areal coverage
- Suitable for detecting **area sources**, which is the main concern
- Full coverage of the entire project area (~3,000+ acres)
- Some exceptions (e.g., San Mateo Asequía) due to access limitations
- Anomalies may be investigated with higher-density scanning
- San Mateo Creek channel will be scanned with **parallel transects** and **5–10 meter offset scans**

Gamma–Radium Correlation

00:42:10 **Randy Whicker:**
We will attempt to establish a **gamma count–to–Radium-226 soil correlation**, using:

- 10–15 correlation plots
- Each plot: **10m × 10m**, mapped with 100% gamma coverage
- Composite soil samples collected from each plot

Notes:

- EPA conducted an aerial gamma survey in 2010; results showed **low and uniform radiation levels** in the project area.
- If correlation is weak, data from the adjacent Mount Taylor Mine may supplement analysis.

Surface Soil Sampling Design

00:44:15 **Randy Whicker:**
Regulatory Guide 4.14 recommends a **radial grid** extending ~1500 meters from the mill yard, but that design is inefficient for ISR wellfields spread across large areas.

Instead, we will use:

- A **randomized systematic triangular grid**
- Uniform site-wide distribution
- Target density equivalent to mill guidance: **0.023 samples per acre**
- For this site: **69 sampling locations**

We used Visual Sample Plan (VSP) software, then adjusted locations to avoid:

- Cultural sites
- The Asequía
- Inaccessible terrain

Soils will be collected to a **15 cm depth**, consistent with **10 CFR 40 Appendix A (unrestricted release criteria)**, which is more appropriate for ISR than the 5 cm depth originally designed for windblown mill tailings.

End of Section 3

- Air particulate monitoring
- Radon and gamma monitoring

Corrected Readable Transcript — Section 4

Radiological Baseline Survey Presentation (Part 2)

Subsurface Soil Sampling

00:46:59 **Randy Whicker:**
For **subsurface soils**, Regulatory Guide 4.14 recommends sampling at five locations arranged on a radial grid around a conventional mill.

Because this is an ISR project with widely distributed wellfields, a radial grid is not appropriate. Instead:

- One subsurface soil location will be placed at the **central processing plant (CPP)**, consistent with the guidance.

- Additional subsurface locations will be distributed across representative wellfield areas.

Sampling depths will be:

- **0–30 cm**
- **30–60 cm**
- **60–100 cm**

These depth increments are consistent with prior ISR licensee baseline programs and provide adequate vertical characterization.

Sediment Sampling

00: 48: 22 **Randy Whicker:**
For **sediments**, Regulatory Guide 4.14 calls for sampling both **upgradient** and **downgradient** of the project area.

Key points:

- Sampling will occur **twice per year**:
    - **Spring**, during runoff
    - **Fall**, when drainages are typically dry
- San Mateo Creek will be sampled, as well as multiple **ephemeral drainages** that cross the site.
- Sample collection will use **composite transects** taken perpendicular to each drainage channel.
- Two ponds along San Mateo Creek will also be sampled.

Interruption for Scheduling Question

00: 48: 22–00: 50: 26**Jim Smith and others (lightly summarized):**

Jim Smith notes the presentation is running longer than scheduled, as the meeting was originally planned for 1:30–2:30 PM, with Q&A starting around 2:05 PM.
He asks how much longer the presentation will take.

00:49:05 **Daria Sayan:**
About 15 more minutes of presentation, plus 10–15 minutes for Q&A if needed.

00:49:55 **Jim Smith:**
That's fine — just wanted to make sure attendees are aware. Some NRC staff may have to drop due to conflicting meetings.

Martha Poston-Brown indicates she must leave at 2:30 PM.

Jim notes that the meeting is being recorded and the presentation will be placed in ADAMS.

Air Particulate Monitoring

00:50:30 **Randy Whicker:**
For **ambient air particulates**, Regulatory Guide 4.14 calls for **five stations**. We will implement:

- **AP-4** as the designated **upwind/background** station.
    - Based on prevailing wind roses, AP-4 is placed to capture true upwind particulate conditions.
- **AP-1, AP-2, AP-3** as **primary downwind stations**.
    - These are directly downwind of the CPP during typical daytime winds.
- **AP-5**, located near the Lee Ranch headquarters, will serve as an additional monitoring station.

This arrangement establishes a clear upwind/downwind comparison consistent with NRC guidance.

Ambient Radon & Gamma Dose Monitoring

00:52:20 **Randy Whicker:**
Regulatory Guide 4.14 states that **radon** and **ambient gamma dose** should be monitored at the same air particulate stations. We will do that, but because radon behaves differently from particulates, we will add **five additional stations** to ensure complete coverage.

Rationale:

- **Air particulates** move primarily **west → east** during daytime winds.

- **Radon** moves primarily **east → west** during nighttime drainage flows.

To appropriately characterize both:

- We have **ringed the project area** with radon and gamma monitoring stations.
- This ensures **upwind**, **downwind**, and **cross-gradient** coverage for radon migration patterns.
- Many of these baseline stations will likely become **operational monitoring stations** during ISR activities.

Vegetation Sampling

00:54:05 **Randy Whicker:**
Vegetation sampling focuses on potential food chain pathways.

Regulatory Guide 4.14 specifies sampling in **downwind sectors with the highest predicted particulate concentrations**. Based on modeling, these lie **east of the CPP**, so we will sample:

- **Forage grasses**
- **Forbs**
- **Edible shrub species**

Sampling approach:

- Only **above-ground tissues** (the parts grazing animals consume).
- Samples will **not be washed**, to match actual ingestion pathways.
- If cultivated crops appear within the project area during the growing season, we will request permission to sample them as well.

Food Product Sampling

00:55:40 **Randy Whicker:**
Regulatory Guide 4.14 recommends sampling:

- **Crops or livestock-derived food products** within **3 km** of the facility
- At the time of **harvest** or **slaughter**

For this site, expected food-chain items include:

- **Cattle** (primary livestock)
- **Wild game**, especially **elk**, if harvested locally

Sampling notes:

- Samples require ~**18 pounds** of tissue because laboratories ash the samples before analysis.
- Only **edible portions** will be collected.
- No aquatic food species exist in the area, as San Mateo Creek is ephemeral below the ponds and cannot sustain fish populations.

With that, I will turn the presentation over to **Ben Shiffer** to discuss the surface water and groundwater monitoring program.

Surface Water Monitoring Program

00: 56: 20 **Ben Shiffer:**
Thanks, Randy.

To summarize the surface water program:

- Monitoring stations are placed along **arroyos upstream and downstream of the CPP**.
- One **spring** has been identified for sampling.
- Five **impoundments** (ponds) will also be sampled.
- At each site we will:
    - Measure stream **gradient and cross-section**
    - Develop **rating curves**
    - Install **at least five continuous pressure transducers** to record flow
- Monitoring will occur **monthly** from **April to October**, with adaptive scheduling based on MET station weather data to ensure sampling during flow events.
- Regulatory Guide 4.14 protocols will be applied at San Mateo Creek and the pond sites.

Because the watercourses are mostly **ephemeral**, samples will generally be **grab samples** collected opportunistically.

Groundwater Monitoring Program

00: 57: 55 **Ben Shiffer:**
Regarding groundwater:

- Regulatory Guide 4.14 is most relevant to **the shallowest aquifers**, particularly around the CPP and other surface infrastructure.
- Our groundwater program includes **upgradient and downgradient** sampling locations consistent with standard practice.
- NRC staff have seen earlier versions of our groundwater network; today's focus is confirming alignment with 4.14.

I'll now turn it back to Daria.

Conclusion of Presentation

00: 58: 43 **Daria Sayan:**
Thank you, Ben. Thank you, Randy.

That concludes our presentation.

A final note for public participants:

- ISR operations result in **far lower radiation doses** to workers and the public compared to conventional underground mining.
- At our Australian affiliate (Heathgate), the **average worker dose** is **0.88 mSv/year**, compared to the U.S. occupational limit of **50 mSv/year**.
- The facility uses a **zero-emission closed-loop** process.
- The primary focus for monitoring is **radon**, which is naturally occurring in the groundwater and ore body.

Our goal with baseline data collection is to thoroughly understand current natural conditions and evaluate any changes during future operations.

Jim, turning it back over to you.

End of Section 4

Corrected Readable Transcript — Section 5

NRC Questions, Public Questions, and Acoma Tribal Discussion

NRC Question Period Begins

00: 59: 11 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you, Daria. That concludes the applicant's presentation.
We'll now move into the NRC staff questions.

00: 59: 22 **Jim Smith:**
Marti, did you have any questions?

NRC Technical Questions

00: 59: 30 **Martha Poston-Brown:**
Yes, thanks. I have just a few clarifications.

First, regarding the **gamma/radium correlation** — you mentioned using up to 10–15 plots. Will those be selected to represent different soil types or landforms, or more opportunistically based on access?

01: 00: 10 **Randy Whicker:**
Good question. Yes — we will select correlation plots that represent the **range of soils and surface conditions** within the project area.
We'll avoid culturally sensitive areas, and we'll consult the soil survey and baseline vegetation data to choose representative sites.

01: 00: 40 **Martha Poston-Brown:**
Thanks. Second question: For the **air particulate stations**, do you expect to run them **continuously** or **intermittently**?

01:01:00 **Randy Whicker:**
They will operate **continuously**, following 4.14 guidance. Filters will be changed **weekly**, and we'll collect supporting meteorological data from the on-site MET tower.

01:01:20 **Martha Poston-Brown:**
OK. Third question: For **sediment sampling**, will the same transects be used each season?

01:01:30 **Randy Whicker:**
Yes — the goal is to use **consistent locations** to allow temporal comparisons.

01:01:45 **Martha Poston-Brown:**
That's all I had. Thank you.

Additional NRC Questions

01:01:50 **Jim Smith:**
Chris, anything from you?

01:01:53 **Christopher Young:**
No questions at this time.

01:01:59 **Jim Smith:**
Bill?

01:02:00 **Bill Von Till:**
No questions. Thank you — very informative presentation.

Transition to Public Questions

01:02:12 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you. We'll now take **public questions**.

If you're online, please use the hand-raise feature. If you're in the room with Charles, he'll manage questions there.

Public Questions & Comments

Question from the Pueblo of Acoma Representatives

01:02:36 **Aaron Sims:**
Thank you, Jim. We appreciate the opportunity to ask questions.

I have several questions related to **Tribal consultation**, impacts to **cultural resources**, and the **baseline data methodology** described today.

First, can the applicant clarify **how** and **when** the Pueblo of Acoma will be consulted regarding:

- selection of sampling locations,
- access to traditional cultural properties,
- and opportunities for site visits?

Applicant Response

01: 03: 22 **Daria Sayan:**
Absolutely, Aaron — thank you for the question.

Here's where things stand:

- We have sent **initial outreach letters** to Acoma and other Tribes.
- We are **requesting input** on any areas of concern, traditional cultural properties, or locations that should be avoided during baseline fieldwork.
- We are planning to offer **on-site visits** during the 2026 field season, and we will coordinate directly with your office.

To be clear:
We will not conduct field sampling in any area where Acoma expresses concern or requests additional discussion.

If the Pueblo wants to specify areas of interest or designate monitors, we are open to that.

Follow-up Question from Acoma

01: 04: 35 **Aaron Sims:**
Thank you. I appreciate that response.

Second question: Will the applicant commit to providing the Pueblo of Acoma with **all baseline sampling data**, including raw data, before the license application is submitted?

We want to review data early — not after it's already in an NRC filing.

Applicant Response

01:05:05 **Daria Sayan:**
Yes. We intend to make all baseline data available to Acoma **as it becomes available**, not only at the final stage.

We can provide:

- raw data tables,
- GIS layers,
- lab reports,
- and any QA/QC summaries.

We'll coordinate the format that works best for your technical staff.

Question from Acoma (Radon & Air Pathways)

01:05:42 **Aaron Sims:**
Next question: The presentation mentioned radon transport along the **San Mateo Creek valley**. Because that valley leads toward Acoma lands, we want to understand:

- whether monitoring stations are placed **far enough downgradient**,
- what the expected **baseline radon levels** are, and
- how radon exposure to Tribal members will be assessed.

Applicant Response

01:06:20 **Randy Whicker:**
Great questions.

- Yes, several radon stations are placed **down-valley**, in locations that capture drainage patterns toward the northwest.
- These will measure **baseline radon flux and concentration**.
- For exposure assessments, we use **NUREG-1569** methods, which include radon dose to the nearest resident or receptor.

We can also coordinate placement adjustments if Acoma has specific locations of interest.

Acoma Closing Comment

01: 07: 22 **Aaron Sims:**
Thank you. We look forward to continued coordination.

Question from Uranium Watch

01: 07: 35 **Sarah Fields (Uranium Watch):**
I have two questions.

First: Will the applicant commit to posting **baseline monitoring results** publicly?
Second: Has any **legacy contamination** from past uranium mining been identified on or near the proposed ISR site?

Applicant Response

01: 08: 10 **Daria Sayan:**
On the first question — yes, we plan to post **summary results** publicly and will share full data on request.

On the second:

- The project area itself has **no legacy uranium mine workings**.
- The closest legacy site is the **Mount Taylor Mine**, which is in decommissioning and is managed by BLM.
- Our gamma survey and soil sampling will characterize any regional background influences.

Question from Public in the Room

01: 09: 05 **Gary Miller:**
What about **surface water**? You mentioned San Mateo Creek is mostly dry. Does that mean contamination can't reach it?

Applicant Response

01: 09: 25 **Ben Shiffer:**
San Mateo Creek is **ephemeral** below the ponds — it flows only during major precipitation events.

However:

- We still sample the creek to capture **stormflow events**.
- We use pressure transducers to record flow and identify sampling windows.
- The ISR process does not involve releases to surface water.

Closing Public Questions

01: 10: 10 **Jim Smith:**
Any other public questions?
(brief pause)

All right — seeing none, we'll move to closing remarks.

Meeting Closure

01: 10: 32 **Jim Smith:**
Thank you to Grants Energy, the NRC staff, and all members of the public for attending today.

As a reminder:

- The meeting recording will be used to prepare the meeting summary.
- The applicant will provide their presentation for inclusion in **ADAMS**.
- The summary, attendee list, presentation, and transcript will be posted in approximately **10 days** after receipt of the slides.

This concludes the business portion of the meeting.

Thank you everyone — we are adjourned.

End of Section 5