



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

August 13, 2026

Michell Hicks, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Qualla Boundary P.O. Box 1927
Cherokee, NC 28719

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION OF SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE LICENSE
APPLICATION OF ORANO ENRICHMENT USA, LLC'S PROJECT IKE
ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE (DOCKET
NUMBER: 70-7038)

Dear Principal Chief Michell Hicks:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering a license request from Orano Enrichment USA, LLC (Orano) to construct and operate a gaseous centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Roane County, Tennessee, to be known as Project IKE (Project). The license application was submitted pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material," Part 30, "Rules of General Applicability to Domestic Licensing of Byproduct Material," and Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material." The license under consideration would authorize Orano to possess and use special nuclear material, source material, and byproduct material for the purposes of constructing, and then operating for up to 40 years, a facility that uses gas centrifuge enrichment technology to enrich uranium.

The purpose of this letter is to document the NRC's conclusion of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) Section 106 consultation consistent with Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR) Part 800 for the undertaking. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has a related undertaking, to amend the self-sufficiency parcel-2 property deed to allow for the construction of a uranium enrichment facility, coincident with NRC's license application review. DOE has designated NRC as the lead agency for compliance with NHPA Section 106 requirements, consistent with 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) [Accession No. ML26146A097](#)). The term "undertaking" herein refers to the aforementioned approvals under consideration by the DOE and NRC.

Referenced documents and correspondence are available through the NRC's ADAMS by accessing ADAMS at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm>.

By letters dated July 7, 2026, the NRC staff initiated and conducted NHPA Section 106 consultation with eighteen Federally recognized Tribes ([ML26176A062](#)) and the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (TN SHPO) ([ML26176A274](#)) regarding the undertaking. The aforementioned letters included the NRC staff's determination of no historic properties affected and all associated documentation and information. The TN SHPO concurred with the NRC staff's finding by letter dated July 10, 2026 ([ML26195A339](#)). Responses were also received from the Chickasaw Nation ([ML26198A233](#)), Delaware Nation ([ML26209A318](#)), a Tribe requesting confidentiality, and the Shawnee Tribe ([ML26212A413](#)).

You may access public documents related to the Orano application, including National Environmental Policy Act documentation and compliance, at the following link:
<https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/fc/orano-enrichment>.

Thank you for your participation; the NRC staff looks forward to working with you on future projects.

Sincerely,



Signed by Robert Sun on 08/13/26

Robert Sun, Chief
Environmental Review Materials Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage
and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-7038

cc: Granicus Communications

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DATED: August 13, 2026

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ADAMS Accession Numbers:

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DOC: ML26218A120 (Multiple Letters)

Concurrence case: 20260806-01731