

July 9, 1999

The Honorable Jim Geringer
Governor of the State of Wyoming
State Capitol
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Geringer:

I am responding to your letter to the Commissioners, dated June 10, 1999, in which you comment on the changes that we are considering on the regulation of in situ leach (ISL) wellfields, as part of a proposed 10 CFR Part 41 rulemaking plan for uranium recovery facilities. In particular, you request that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission relinquish jurisdiction over ISL wellfields.

The Commission is currently considering a number of regulatory issues regarding the uranium recovery industry that could be addressed in a Part 41 rulemaking. We were recently briefed on uranium recovery issues, including ISL wellfield regulation. The Commission will consider your comments during its deliberations on these issues. In addition, if the Commission directs the staff to develop a proposed rule, the draft Part 41 rule, if approved by the Commission, will be issued for public comment. We will ensure that you are provided a copy of the document so you may comment as we continue our deliberations on these matters. Information from Commission briefings, public comments, as well as letters such as yours, help provide the Commission with the spectrum of views that are needed to make an informed decision.

We appreciate your personal interest in the Commission's regulatory program for uranium recovery facilities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Greta Joy Dicus

Greta Joy Dicus