



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828



In Reply Refer To:
3809 (922)

SEP 09 2009

Irene Yu
Environmental Project Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2746

Dear Ms. Yu:

We are writing to you in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) August 5, 2009 notice of intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register (74 FR 39116). In this NOI the NRC invited other agencies to participate as a cooperating agency for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to be prepared for Uranerz Energy Company's application for a new source material license for the Nichols Ranch In-Situ Recovery project. This project would affect public domain lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Wyoming. Uranerz Energy Company has filed a 43 CFR 3809 plan of operations with our Buffalo Field Office (BFO). The BLM has jurisdiction over surface management of uranium operations on the BLM lands in Wyoming, pursuant to provisions of the 43 CFR 3809 surface management regulations for locatable minerals. The BLM must approve a plan of operations and set a bond before an applicant can start uranium recovery on the BLM administered surface.

Because of our special expertise in uranium resources located in Wyoming and our jurisdictional responsibilities for managing the Federal surface and mineral estate, we request NRC allow the BLM Wyoming to participate in your NEPA process as a cooperating agency for this project.

The BLM Wyoming's point of contact at the BFO is Mr. Gerald Queen, Field Office Geologist. Mr. Queen can be reached by e-mail at Gerald_Queen@blm.gov or by phone at 307-684-1160. All written correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Queen in care of the BFO, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834. Please contact Mr. Queen with information regarding the specific roles and responsibilities the BLM will assume as a cooperating agency when NRC is the lead agency and NRC's schedule for completing the NEPA process for the Nichols Ranch project.

We request a copy of all correspondence also be sent to Peter Sokolosky at the BLM Wyoming State Office. Written correspondence can be sent to Mr. Sokolosky at the address shown on this letterhead, or electronically to Pete_Sokolosky@blm.gov. You may also contact Mr. Sokolosky, by mail or at 307-775-6261 if you have any questions regarding this request for cooperating agency status.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the NRC's NEPA process for the Nichols Ranch In-Situ Recovery project SEIS as a cooperating agency. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Simpson
State Director

cc:

Don McKenzie, Wyoming State Land Quality Division, 122 West 25th Street, Herschler
Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

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