



# Uranium Recovery Commission Briefing

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March 2, 2010

# Programmatic Overview

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Division of Waste Management and  
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# Discussion Topics

- Key Messages
- Steps to Ensure Effective Review Processes
- ISR Rule
- Challenges

# Key Messages

- Completing licensing actions in a timely fashion
- Working with:
  - States & Federal agencies to integrate process
  - Industry to ensure submission of high-quality applications
  - Native American Tribes and other parties to ensure open and transparent process

# Effective Reviews

- Enhanced acceptance review to ensure effectiveness
- Completed GEIS
- Revision of Regulatory Framework

# Rulemaking

- NRC's ISR Rule
  - New rule to protect groundwater at ISR facilities
  - Must conform to 40 CFR 192
  - EPA concerns with provisions related to monitoring period
- EPA revisions to 40 CFR 192
- Rulemaking on the definition of construction

# Future Challenges

- Uncertainty in Industry
- Concurrent Regulatory Framework Development/Licensing Reviews
- Legacy of Past Milling Activities

# Uranium Recovery Program Operations

William von Till, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch  
Division of Waste Management and  
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# Discussion Topics

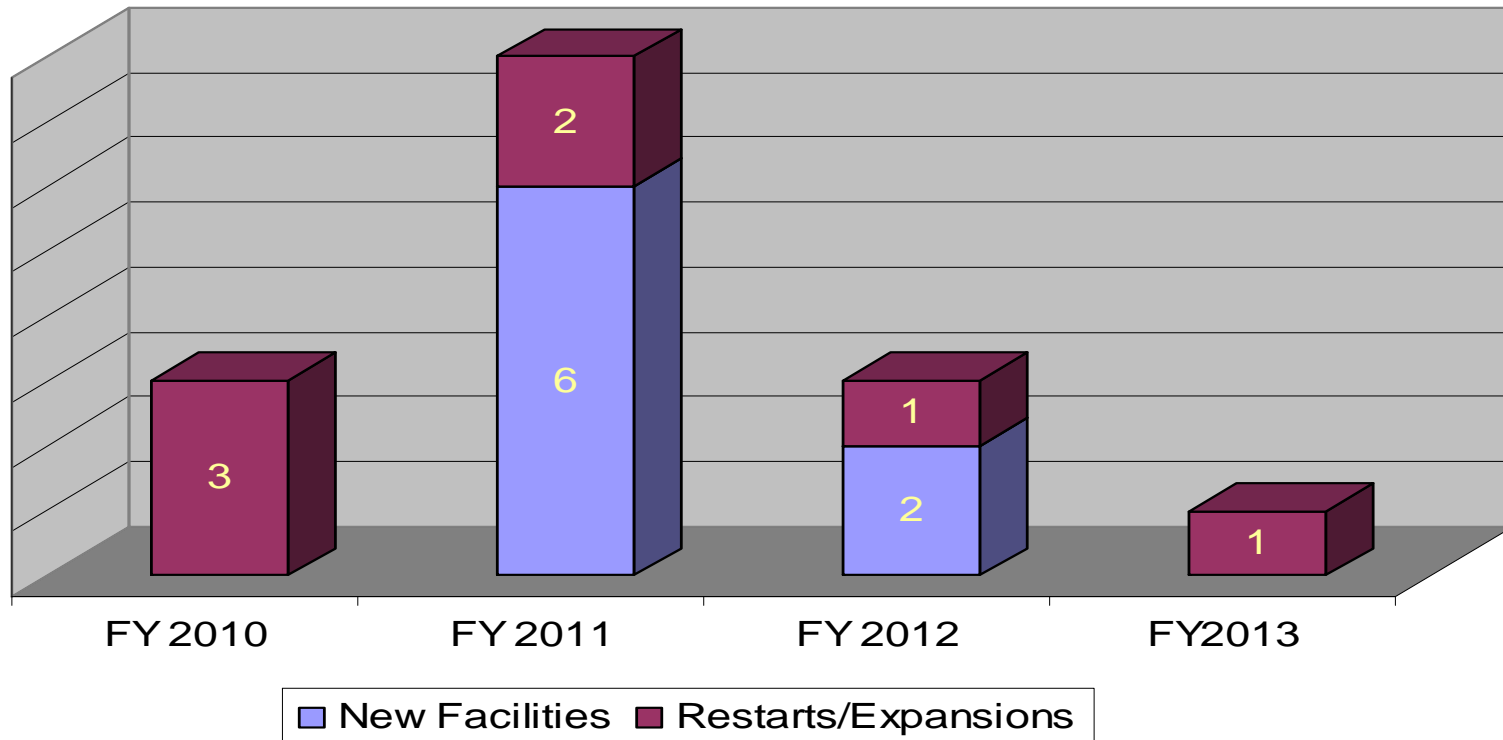
- Status of Application Reviews
- Projections for Future Applications
- Communication with Industry
- Status of Guidance Updates
- Groundwater Protection

# Status of Applications

- 6 New applications received
  - 4 technical reviews in progress
  - 1 on-hold – pending Sage Grouse decision
  - 1 acceptance review in progress

# Projections for Future Workload

## 2010 Projection



# Communication with Industry

- Site specific meetings
- Workshops
  - National Mining Association July 2009
  - NRC technical workshop November 2009
- Regulatory Information Summaries

# Guidance

- In parallel to licensing reviews
- NUREG-1569 Revision
- Regulatory guide updates
- Regulatory Information Summaries

# Groundwater Protection

- Importance of groundwater protection at in-situ recovery sites
- Restoration and groundwater monitoring
- Questions from December 11, 2008 Commission Briefing
- Report to Commission July 10, 2009

# Improvements in Environmental Reviews for Uranium Recovery

Patrice Bubar, Deputy Director  
Environmental Protection and  
Performance Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management and  
Environmental Protection/FSME

# Discussion Topics

- Use of the GEIS
- Interactions with stakeholders
- Interactions with BLM
- Communications with Native Americans
- Infrastructure – Efficiencies
- Challenges



# Use of the GEIS

- SEISs tiering from GEIS
- Schedule certainty and continued efficiencies
- Public confidence

# Interactions with Stakeholders

- Multiple public meetings
- Over 2000 public comments
- Public comments on site specific NEPA documents

# Interactions with BLM

- MOU with BLM
- Framework for agency cooperation
- Challenges in providing one NEPA document
- Committed to gaining efficiencies
- Timing of applications is critical

# Communications with Native Americans

- Government to Government meetings with Tribal Govts. in New Mexico
- Navajo, Acoma, All Indian Pueblo Council, Zuni and Laguna
- Meetings with Tribal Governments regarding site specific issues

# Infrastructure in place – Efficiencies Gained

- GEIS
- Acquisition Strategy
- Contract with CNWRA
- Staff guidance and tools
- Intra-agency coordination
- Integration of safety and environmental reviews

# Challenges Going Forward

- Number and timing of applications
- Public interest in projects
- Two new contract vehicles
- Optimizing interface with BLM

# Status, Accomplishments, and Challenges with Environmental Reviews in Support of Uranium Recovery Licensing

Andrea Kock, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Division of Waste Management and  
Environmental Protection/FSME

# Discussion Topics

- Status of Reviews
- Experience from Early Reviews
- Challenges
- Coordination with other Agencies



# Status of Reviews

- 6 ongoing environmental reviews for new facilities
- Major milestones have been completed
- Review plans generally support licensing decision timelines

# Experience from Early Reviews

- Role of GEIS is clear
- Integrated Safety and Environmental reviews
- Consideration of Operational Data
- Need for timely and complete information from applicants

# Challenges with Current Reviews

- Groundwater
- Sage Grouse
- Cultural
- Socioeconomics

# Coordination with Agencies, Native American Tribes, and Stakeholders

- BLM
- Wyoming and South Dakota
- EPA
- Native American Tribes
- Stakeholders

# Conclusions

- Significant progress on current reviews
- Staff are addressing challenges and applying experience gained
- Staff continue to coordinate with agencies, Native American tribes and stakeholders

# Acronyms

BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNWRA	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FSME	Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
FY	fiscal year
GEIS	Generic Environmental Impact Statement
ISR	in-situ recovery
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement