



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 1, 2000

Mr. Thomas C. Collins, Coordinator
Habitat Protection Program
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82006-0001

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUEST ON PROTECTED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Dear Mr. Collins:

Rio Algom Smith Ranch Project (RAS) has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license renewal to conduct solution mining for uranium at its site in Converse County, approximately 17 air miles northeast of Glenrock, Wyoming. The goal of the project is to extract up to 3.5 million pounds of uranium per year over a period of at least 20 years. The location of the site is shown on the enclosed map.

The permit area is 16,200 acres with four native vegetation types including bottomland sagebrush, mixed sagebrush grassland, rough breaks, and upland grass. Surface disturbance would include the wellfield pattern areas during wellfield construction, and approximately 20 acres for lined evaporation ponds, mineral processing and water-treatment facilities, wellfield header houses, pipeline routes, pump stations, and access roads. It is anticipated that no more than 700 acres would be disturbed during the life of the project.

RAS has conducted plant and animal surveys of the project area. The only protected species or species of special concern that has been observed on the site is the bald eagle, which has been observed over the project area during migration. Based on the information available, we currently have no reason to expect any additional protected species or species of special concern to occur on or near the site. However, we would appreciate you forwarding any information or concerns you may have regarding effects of this planned mining project on any such species, as well as any other ecological concerns. We will use this information in preparing an environmental assessment for the renewal of this license.

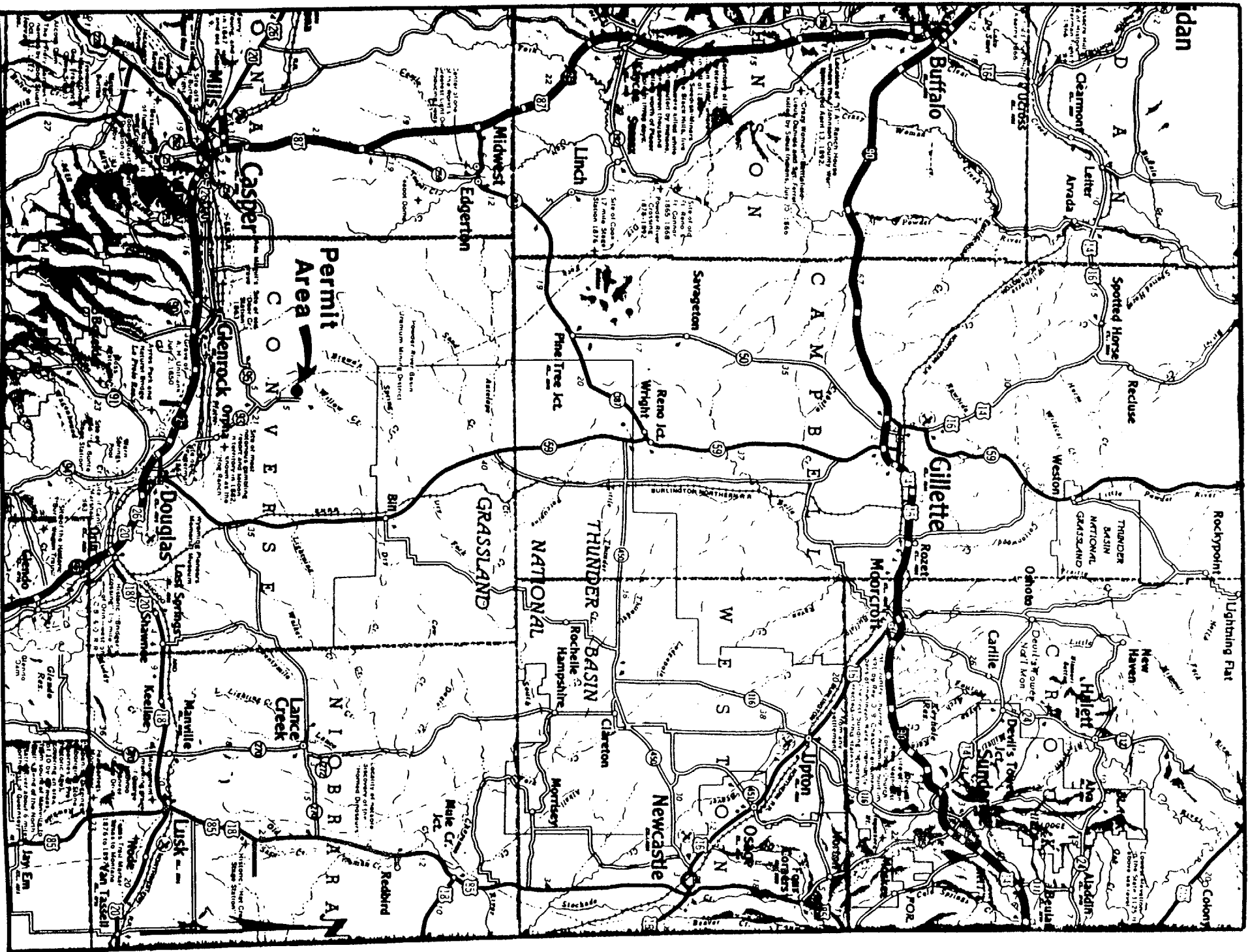
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact John H. Lusher of my staff at 301-415-7694 or e-mail to jhl@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Philip Ting, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated



LOCATION OF and ACCESS TO
RECOVERY PLANT SITE

Mr. Thomas C. Collins, Coordinator
Habitat Protection Program
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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Cheyenne, Wyoming 82006-0001

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
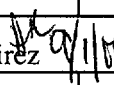
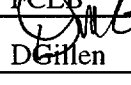
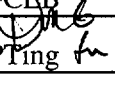
Sincerely,


Phillip Ting, Chief
Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

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