

NRCREP - GEIS comments

From: "Sandy Bahr" <sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org>
 To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
 Date: 09/04/2007 8:40:38 PM
 Subject: GEIS comments

7/24/07

72 FR 40344

376

Please accept the attached comments on behalf of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter. Thank you.

Sandy Bahr
 Conservation Outreach Director
 Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter
 202 E. McDowell Rd, Suite 277
 Phoenix, AZ 85004
 (602) 253-8633
 fax (602) 258-6533
 sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

RECEIVED

2007 SEP 13 PM 2:51

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
10/17/07

SUNSI Review Complete
 Template = ADM-013

FRIDS = ADM-03
 Qee = J. Park (JRP)

Mail Envelope Properties (46DDFAF7.4F4 : 24 : 1268)

Subject: GEIS comments
Creation Date Tue, Sep 4, 2007 8:39 PM
From: "Sandy Bahr" <sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org>

Created By: sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org

Recipients

nrc.gov
TWGWPO01.HQGWDO01
NRCREP

Post Office

TWGWPO01.HQGWDO01

Route

nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	303	Tuesday, September 4, 2007 8:39 PM
TEXT.htm	2256	
NRC GEIS comments Sept4 07.pdf		106191
Mime.822	150181	

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
ReplyRequested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard

Junk Mail Handling Evaluation Results

Message is eligible for Junk Mail handling
This message was not classified as Junk Mail

Junk Mail settings when this message was delivered

Junk Mail handling disabled by User
Junk Mail handling disabled by Administrator
Junk List is not enabled
Junk Mail using personal address books is not enabled
Block List is not enabled



Grand Canyon Chapter • 202 E. McDowell Rd, Ste 277 • Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 253-8633 Fax: (602) 258-6533 Email: grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org

September 4, 2007

Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
Mail Stop T-6D59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is our understanding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuing a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) on in situ leach (ISL) uranium mining. It is also our understanding that if adopted the GEIS will remove the requirement for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies on individual ISL projects in our state and throughout the west. This is contrary to the intent of NEPA and we are opposed to it.

This attempt to fast-track the process will allow companies to avoid site specific environmental analysis and will restrict the amount of information available to the public on individual mine proposals. The result will be less meaningful public involvement, the hallmark unfortunately of the current administration. Poorer quality environmental studies are sure to be the result.

We also object to the process by which the NRC arrived at its decision to draft a GEIS. Limited public meetings were held on the scoping process. These meetings were held far away from those most affected by uranium mining and were attended by most via phone. Our attempts to participate by phone were unsuccessful.

There is no substitute for site specific environmental analysis; one size does not fill all. We are reminded of the ISL attempt several years ago south of Prescott to recover copper and other minerals. Massive amounts of sulfuric acid were dumped onto the Zonia mine site near the Hassayampa River, and none of the acid was recovered. It was never even determined where it went. The geology and hydrology of the area was never properly studied, and there was little or no real public involvement. A GEIS for uranium must not preclude site-specific studies and full public participation. We urge you to reject this poorly conceived idea.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Don Steuter
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club - Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter