



U.S.NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR URANIUM RECOVERY

Public Scoping Meeting

Albuquerque, NM

August 9, 2007

Andrew C. Campbell, Ph.D.

**Acting Director, Environmental Protection and
Performance Assessment Directorate,**

Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection

Meeting Objectives

- **NRC's Role and Responsibility**
- **NRC's Environmental Review Process**
- **NRC's Safety Review Process**
- **Public Comments on proposed GEIS**

NRC Role and Responsibility

- **INDEPENDENT** Federal Commission
- Report directly to **CONGRESS**
- Regulatory **RESPONSIBILITY**
 - Safety and security review
 - Environmental review
 - Licensing
 - Inspection
 - Enforcement

**OUR
MISSION:
Protect
Public
Health and
Safety,
and the
Environment**



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Gregory F. Suber
Chief, Environmental Review Branch,
Division of Waste Management and
Environmental Protection,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

- **Set national environmental policy**
- **Requires detailed statement for all major federal actions significantly affecting the human environment**
- **Established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

Generic EISs

- **CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.4)**
 - **EISs on “broad actions”**
 - **Can evaluate geographically or by subject matter**
- **Previous NRC Generic EISs**

Purpose of Uranium Recovery GEIS

- **Evaluate environmental issues common to in-situ leach uranium milling and alternate methods of uranium recovery (e.g., conventional milling)**
- **Use as a basis for site-specific environmental review**
- **Fulfill NRC's NEPA requirements**

Scope of Uranium Recovery GEIS

- **Address construction, operation, and decommissioning / reclamation of uranium recovery facilities**
- **Discuss direct, indirect, and cumulative radiological & non-radiological impacts**
- **Evaluate potential environmental impacts to various resource areas**

Environmental Impact Resource Areas

- **Land Use**
- **Geology and Soils**
- **Water Resources**
- **Ecological Resources**
- **Air Quality**
- **Waste Management**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Historic and Cultural Resources**
- **Transportation**
- **Socioeconomics**
- **Public and Occupational Health**
- **Wildlife**

GEIS Schedule

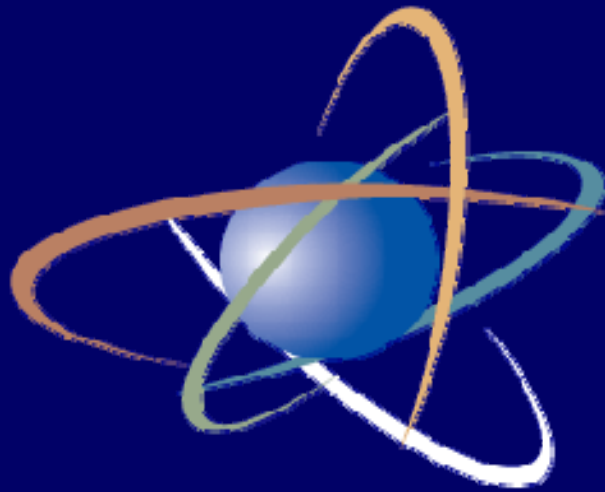
- **Publish Notice of Intent (July 24, 2007)**
- **Scoping Comment Period (July 24 to September 4, 2007)**
- **Scoping Summary Report**
- **Draft GEIS prepared (April 2008)**
- **Draft GEIS Public Comment Period**
- **Final GEIS Prepared (January 2009)**

GEIS Scoping Comments

- **Postmarked by September 4, 2007,
“Uranium Recovery GEIS” in the subject
line**
- **By regular mail**
 - **Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch,
Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.**
- **By email**
 - **Send to nrcprep@nrc.gov**

Contact Information

- **NEPA and GEIS questions, contact:**
James Park at 1-800-368-5642, x6935
jrp@nrc.gov
- **Uranium recovery questions, contact:**
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OVERVIEW OF URANIUM RECOVERY FACILITIES AND REVIEWS

Public Scoping Meeting

William VonTill

**Chief, Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch,
Division of Waste Management and
Environmental Protection,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Uranium Recovery Regulation

- **Conventional Uranium Mills**
- **In Situ Leach (ISL) Uranium Extraction**
- **Conventional Uranium Mines not regulated by the NRC (States, U.S. MSHA/OSHA)**

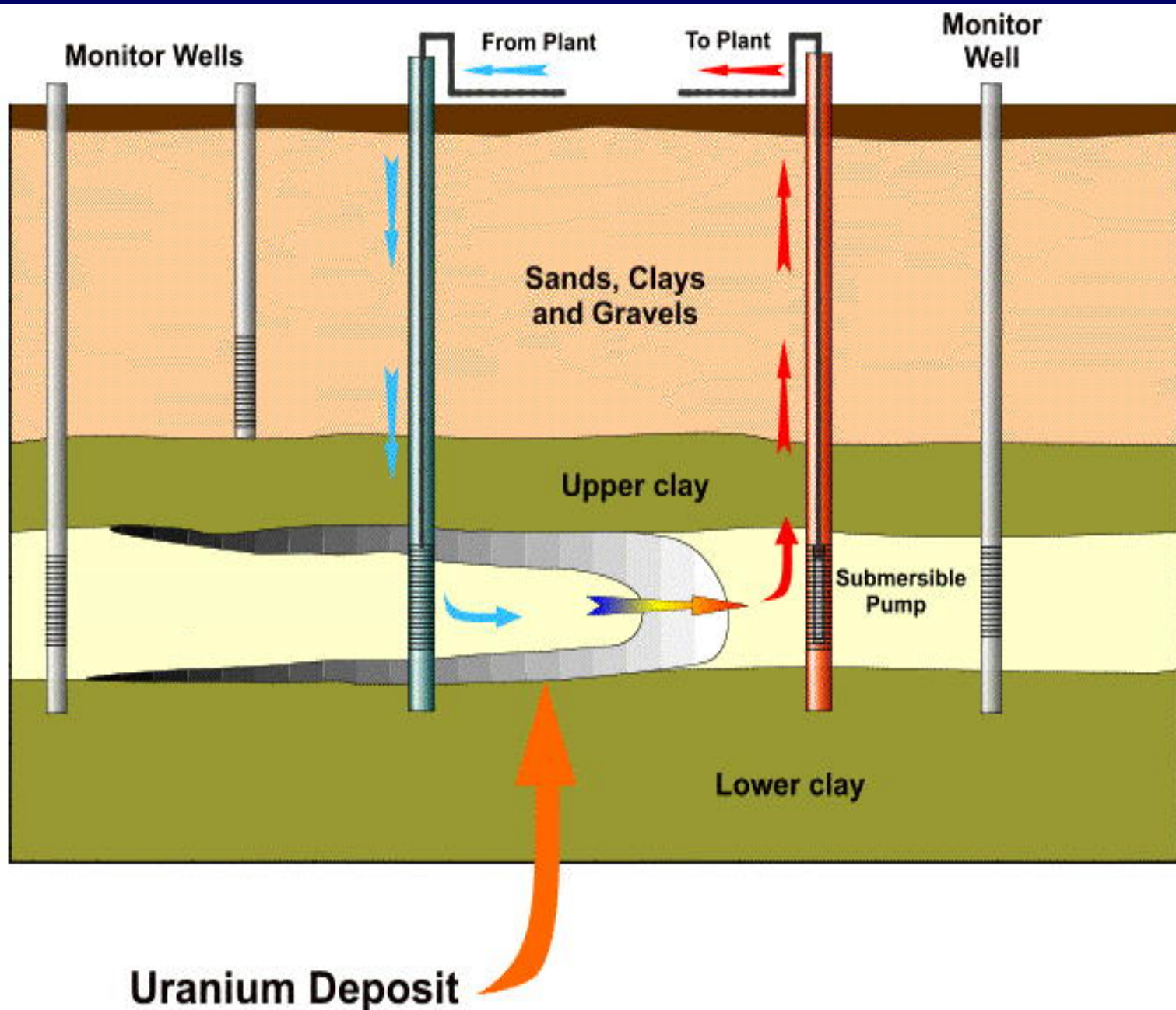
NRC Site Specific Review Process

- **Acceptance review**
- **Notice of opportunity for hearing**
- **Safety/Technical review**
- **Environmental review**
- **Work with stakeholders (e.g. States, EPA, BLM, Indian Tribes)**
- **Inspections**

Conventional Uranium Mill Facility



The ISL process



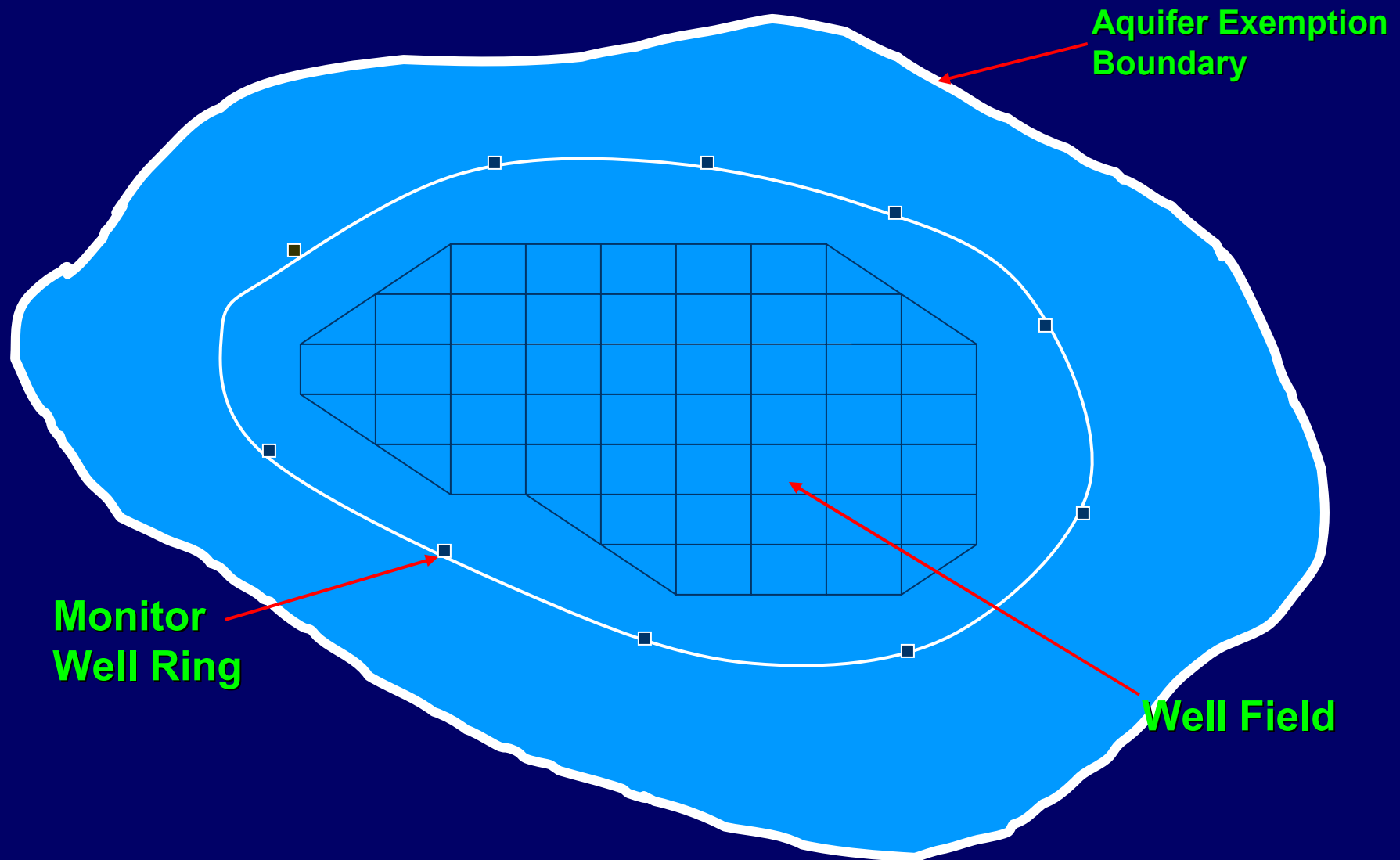
Typical ISL Wellfield



ISL Central Processing Plant



Typical ISL Wellfield Layout



Thank You for Your Input



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