

August 19, 2011

Ms. Laura E. Kilpatrick
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO JULY 28, 2011 LETTER CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN
THE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 28, 2011, in which you asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) if it wished to be a cooperating agency in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) planned Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the DOE's Uranium Leasing Program. We appreciate the invitation and acknowledge your intent to involve the NRC.

In reviewing the PEIS-related information on the web site identified in your letter, the NRC has determined that it would be more appropriate for the NRC to be a commenting agency, rather than a cooperating agency in the development of the PEIS. We do, however, ask to be kept on distribution for PEIS project-related documents. We understand that the scoping period for the PEIS ends on September 9, 2011. It is our intent to provide scoping comments by that date for the DOE's consideration.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. James Park of the NRC staff. Mr. Park can be reached at 301-415-6935 or by email at James.Park@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Keith McConnell, Deputy Director
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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