

August 8, 2012

Lee J. Alter, Chairman  
Government Affairs Committee  
Tallahassee Area Community, Inc.  
0489 Fremont County Road 21A  
Cañon City, Colorado 81212

SUBJECT: INQUIRY REGARDING UNDERGROUND BORE HOLE MINING AND  
ABLATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR URANIUM RECOVERY

Dear Mr. Alter:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is in receipt of your letter dated July 12, 2012, addressed to Bill Von Till and myself, regarding your concerns about the emerging technologies in uranium recovery including ablation technologies in the State of Colorado. After reviewing the issues related to Underground Bore Hole Mining and Impact Ablation, the NRC staff determined that the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) is the regulatory authority with jurisdiction on these matters within the State of Colorado.

It is our understanding that although there have not yet been any applications submitted to CDPHE for licenses or permits requesting use of this technology in the State of Colorado; there are companies in Colorado investigating the possibility of doing so in the near future. The NRC will defer to the CDPHE to communicate with their potential licensees in this area to better understand the process that will be utilized in implementing this new technology. CDPHE may request technical assistance from the NRC to address this new technology for uranium recovery. Until then, the NRC will continue to monitor the state of the technology in order to consider what regulatory changes will be necessary should companies request NRC authority to utilize such technology for uranium recovery.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding ablation technologies and their implementation in the State of Colorado, we suggest that you direct them to Steve Tarlton, Program Manager, at (303) 692-3423 or [steve.tarlton@state.co.us](mailto:steve.tarlton@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Duncan White, Branch Chief  
Agreement State Programs Branch  
Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

cc:  
Steve Tarlton, Program Manager

Lee J. Alter, Chairman  
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Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

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