

April 17, 2014

Mr. James Coates, Managing Member
Mineral Ablation, LLC
1450 North 7 Mile Road
Casper, WY 82604

SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP RELATED TO DECEMBER 19, 2013, PUBLIC MEETING ON USE
OF THE ABLATION TECHNOLOGY ON URANIUM ORE

Dear Mr. Coates:

On December 19, 2013, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with Mineral Ablation, LLC (MA) to discuss regulatory issues related to the use of ablation technology on uranium ore. A summary of the public meeting is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) using accession number ML14017A104. The public meeting and the NRC staff's subsequent visit to MA's Casper office in January 2014, were beneficial in educating the NRC staff about the ablation technology. The NRC staff appreciates MA's participation during the public meeting and MA's willingness to answer questions during the site visit. Based on the information shared during the public meeting and the site visit, the NRC staff offers the following observations on MA's current activities.

During the December 19, 2013, public meeting, MA stated that it planned to submit a White Paper presenting its views on technical and legal aspects of the ablation technology and, if applicable, its place in NRC's regulations. MA stated that it planned to submit this White Paper by February 1, 2014. As of April 1, 2014, the NRC staff has not received the White Paper and understands that it remains in development.

MA's November 19, 2013, letter to the NRC described how it has controlled its possession of post-ablation material to small quantities under the general license limits in 10 CFR 40.22. The NRC staff encourages MA to continue to keep accurate documentation on the quantity of post-ablation material in its possession. Until such time that an NRC decision on the licensing and regulatory aspects of the ablation technology is made, MA should continue to be aware of the current limits in 10 CFR 40.22 as well as the lower possession limits that would apply to MA beginning August 27, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact me at douglas.mandeville@nrc.gov or at (301) 415-0724.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Douglas T. Mandeville, Senior Project Manager
Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

cc:

R. Grebb, Black Range Minerals
C. Pugsley, Thompson & Pugsley

J. Coates

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Sincerely,

Douglas T. Mandeville, Senior Project Manager
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