

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Office of the President

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
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NRC-044
Submitted: 5/8/2015



March 29, 2013

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
And Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
And Environmental Management Programs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: Response to March 12, 2013 invitation letter for government-to-government consultation concerning licensing action for proposed uranium recovery projects

On behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, I am writing to express acceptance of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) March 12, 2013 invitation for government-to-government consultation regarding proposed uranium recovery projects and their licensing actions.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe has several concerns with all of these proposed projects, primarily with their inevitable disturbance and destruction to the natural environment, our irreplaceable cultural resources and burial grounds, and places of special significance to us, as well as other Tribes who have a shared interest in these proposed project areas within the region. These Traditional Cultural Properties / Significance all fall under several federal protection laws and must be adhered to.

The NRC needs to be aware, that prior to any establishment of the current reservations we now reside on, we were nomadic peoples following our brothers, the buffalo, through a pathway of life that supported our entire existence all within our aboriginal / ancestral homelands. These homelands encompass a landscape that cover present-day 10 states into Canada in this Great Plains region and retains millions of burials, ceremonial and prayer loci, artifacts, petroglyphs, habitation locales, and sites of traditional religious and cultural importance to our Lakota peoples. Also to be noted, there are legal contracts still in place to this day, Treaties signed between the U.S. and several Tribal Nations, including our band of the Great Sioux Nation, which derived from the original Seven Council Fires.

We will reluctantly come to the proposed consultation with our other recognized Nations that we continue even in this day-and-age of enlisting help from, such as the swimmers, the winged, the four-legged, the plants, and those that crawl (flora and fauna) as these are often overlooked as if this is not their habitat and homelands as well. We also come on behalf of the water, our first medicine, and life's most precious resource, whose voice is not being heard as well during these project plans.

NRC consultation response
March 29, 2013

Please come prepared to receive direct and open communication about our stance against such economic development ventures, which only appear to succumb to the national and some states' interest. We encourage you to review the past transcripts of consultation meetings already held and we implore you to intently listen to what was shared and what our concerns are with uranium recovery related projects such as these.

Please let it be noted that we reluctantly agree to meet with you on the multitude of uranium recovery projects in these areas. These nine (9) proposed uranium recovery project areas are unique in themselves and cannot be viewed as merely another project similar to another just because the recovery process is similar. For us, these areas within our aboriginal homelands are still held sacred and special in the minds, hearts, and spirits of our people, regardless of current day U.S. property law applied to these lands. We continue to support our fellow Tribal Nations in their pursuit for environmental justice as well during this meeting and others to come. In addition, please recognize these proposed project areas include inter-cultural patrimonial considerations regarding the cultural landscape belonging to all respective Sioux Tribes, and not to one or a few Tribes.


Please update your listing for our Oglala Sioux Tribal contacts to the following:

Mr. Bryan V. Brewer
Tribal President
Oglala Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

THPO: Mr. Wilmer Mesteth
Historian / Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal Historic Preservation Office/Cultural Affairs
P.O. Box 419
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-0419

Let it be understood that the Oglala Sioux Tribe actively stands by the other Seven Council Fires in trying to honor this process as best as possible, and now accepts the invitation for formal government-to-government consultation. We propose the dates of May 23-24, 2013 to be held in Rapid City, SD as this may be a fairly central location with regards to the locale of the proposed projects. Please contact my office at (605) 867-8420 should you need any further information at this time.

Sincerely,



Bryan V. Brewer, Sr.
Tribal President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

Cc: Oglala Sioux Tribal Council Members
Wilmer Mesteth, Oglala Sioux Tribe Historic Preservation Officer
Seven Council Fires THPO
Charlene Dwin Vaughn, ACHP



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