

July 20, 2015

Mrs. Mary Hopkins
State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming State Historic
Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue
Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION AND REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION REGARDING STRATA
ENERGY INC.'S PROPOSED KENDRICK EXPANSION AREA OF THE ROSS
IN SITU URANIUM RECOVERY SITE (DOCKET NO.: 40-9091)

Dear Mrs. Hopkins:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a license amendment application from Strata Energy Inc. (Strata), dated March 20, 2015, for License SUA-1601 requesting authorization to expand its Ross in situ leach uranium recovery (ISR) project to include the Kendrick Expansion Area. The license amendment, if granted, would allow Strata to construct and operate additional ISR wellfields at the Kendrick expansion area, which covers 7,873 acres adjacent to the Ross site. Strata has stated that 1,050 acres of the 7,873 acres will be disturbed. A map showing the proposed project location in Crook County, Wyoming is enclosed. Your office is currently a consulting party to the Programmatic Agreement to resolve National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) Section 106 issues related to the Ross project site.

Upon completion of the NRC's acceptance review of the license amendment application, and if the license application is accepted, then a detailed technical review would take place, consisting of both an environmental and safety review. The environmental review will be conducted in accordance with the regulatory provisions in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), which implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The NRC's environmental review will assess the potential environmental impacts of major Federal actions that may significantly affect the human environment.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.8 (Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act), the NRC staff is using the NEPA process to comply with its obligations under Section 106 of NHPA. The environmental review will also include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources.

Accordingly, the NRC staff is identifying parties and inviting them to consult with the NRC on this matter. Consultation will include participation in the identification of cultural, historic and archaeological properties within the area of potential effect for the project; assessment of the effects of the proposed action on any such properties identified; and development of alternatives

and proposed measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed action on such properties. The environmental review will include analyses of potential impacts to cultural, historic and archaeological properties and will document the NRC staff's determinations.

Through this letter, the NRC staff initiates consultation under NHPA Section 106 with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the Kendrick expansion area. To support the environmental review and implementation of the NHPA Section 106 process through NEPA, the NRC requests that your office provide information, comments or concerns you consider appropriate with regard to cultural, historic or archaeological resources of interest that may be affected by an amendment to the Strata license. Any information you provide will be helpful in developing the scope and quality of our review in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC also sent out letters to 24 Tribes that may be interested in consulting on the identification of historic properties. We are specifically requesting information on identification of sites that may have traditional religious or cultural significance to Native American Tribes that may be affected by the proposed action.

Details pertaining to the amendment application are available on the NRC's project webpage at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/license-apps/kendrick.html>. If you have any questions or comments on the proposed project, or need additional information regarding the license amendment application or the environmental review, please contact Mrs. Jessie Muir Quintero by telephone at 301-415-7476, or via e-mail at Jessie.Muir-Quintero@NRC.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marissa G. Bailey, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 40-9091
License No.: SUA1601

Enclosure:
Map of the Proposed Kendrick
Expansion Area

cc: R. Fowler, ACHP
R. Miller, BLM

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Marissa G. Bailey, Director
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Docket No.: 40-9091
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Expansion Area

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OFC	NMSS/FCSE/ERB	NMSS/FCSE/ERB	NMSS/FCSE/ERB	OGC	NMSS/FCSE
NAME	JMuir-Quintero	AWalker-Smith	LChang	EMonteith	MBailey
DATE	06/04/2015	06/11/2015	06/11/2015	06/30/2015	07/20/2015

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