



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 23, 2016

Mr. Dennis Yellow Thunder
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Cultural Affairs and Historic
Oglala Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 129
Kyle, SD 57752

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RESUMES AND NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL FUTURE
TRIBAL MONITORING OPPORTUNITY UNDER THE ROSS IN SITU URANIUM
RECOVERY PROJECT PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT**

Dear Mr. Yellow Thunder:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would like to inform the Ross Programmatic Agreement consulting Tribes of potential future tribal monitoring at the Ross In Situ Uranium Recovery Project in Crook County, Wyoming. Consistent with 36 CFR 800 and in an effort to further consult on effects of the undertaking, Strata Energy, Inc. (Strata) is developing a tribal monitoring program to protect historic properties identified on the project. As part of this monitoring program Strata is proposing to use Tribal Monitors. The NRC would like to respectfully request that you provide a resume for a preferred and qualified Tribal Monitor to represent your Tribe. These individuals would be contacted on an as needed basis by Strata to come to the project site and provide monitoring services during project activities. The anticipated activities requiring the presence of a monitor include ground disturbance at specific locations and the well abandonment at site 48CK2219 as discussed at the inadvertent disturbance site meeting in October 2015. This tribal monitoring approach was also discussed during the 2015 Annual Report conference call held on March 22, 2016.

Tribal Monitors will aid in the protection and minimization of project-related adverse effects to traditional cultural properties that have been determined eligible or are unevaluated for the National Register of Historic Places. Tribal monitoring enables Tribes to have representation and provide input during ground disturbing activities that may have the potential to disturb tribal cultural resources. Tribal knowledge and special expertise of the Tribes regarding land uses in the project area help the project to avoid any unnecessary impacts during construction. Having Tribal Monitors' onsite also ensures that if any unanticipated discoveries occur, the appropriate representatives are already present and can handle the situation appropriately.

Tribes are encouraged to notify the NRC by April 8, 2016, if they are interested in participating in the tribal monitoring program during project-related construction activities. Notification must include a letter of interest and a two-page resume for each proposed monitor. Each Tribe can submit one monitor and one alternate. Please note that it is possible for monitoring services to be needed prior to the NRC receiving your submittal, therefore please provide your resume promptly. The number of monitors used will be based on the level of interest, the need, and Strata's safety regulations for the project.

Tribal Monitors should be appointed by their respective Tribes either by their Tribal Council and/or the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, depending upon how the tribe appoints such representatives. Tribal officials are responsible for vetting the qualifications of their selected tribal monitors. Tribal Monitors must attend construction site safety orientation and tailgate safety meetings, and other training required and provided by Strata. The requested work will be conducted in the field; therefore, it is understood that the Tribal monitors need to be physically capable of working in varied field conditions.

If you have any questions concerning this invitation, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen at (301) 415-8067 or via e-mail at: Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lydia W. Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 040-09091
License No.: SUA-1601

cc: Mr. John Yellow Bird Steele, President

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If you have any questions concerning this invitation, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen at (301) 415-8067 or via e-mail at: Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Lydia W. Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
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