



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

November 7, 2016

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED
NORTHWEST MEDICAL ISOTOPES, LLC RADIOISOTOPE PRODUCTION
FACILITY**

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting a review of the environmental effects of issuing a license to Northwest Medical Isotopes, LLC (NWMI) to construct a proposed radioisotope production facility at Discovery Ridge Park in Columbia, Boone County, Missouri. This facility would produce radioisotopes for use in diagnostic medical procedures.

As part of the NRC's environmental review, a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared under 10 CFR Part 51, NRC's environmental protection regulations for domestic licensing and related regulatory functions. These regulations also implement Section 102(2) of the National Environment Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC intends to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (NHPA) through the NEPA process. The environmental review includes an analyses of potential impacts to historic properties from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed radioisotope production facility.

For the purposes of analysis, the NRC has defined the area of potential effect (APE) as the area at the proposed site at Discovery Ridge and its immediate environs that may be impacted by the construction of the proposed radioisotope production facility. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs if construction, operation, and decommissioning activities affect offsite historic properties.

Based on this analysis, the NRC finds that the construction of the proposed radioisotope production facility at Discovery Ridge would have no adverse effect on historic properties. The NRC contacted 31 Federally-recognized Native American tribes and received limited responses. However, one tribe requested consulting party status. Documentation of tribal consultation is presented in Appendix D of the draft EIS.

R. Nelson

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A copy of the draft EIS with this conclusion is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft EIS and on our preliminary conclusion. Electronic comments on the draft EIS may be submitted to the NRC by accessing www.regulations.gov and searching for Docket ID NRC-2013-0235. Written comments may be mailed to the NRC at:

Cindy Bladey, Chief
Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)
Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Please note that the public comment period for the draft EIS ends on December 29, 2016.

A public meeting to discuss the findings of the draft EIS will be held on December 6, 2016, at the Holiday Inn Columbia-East, 915 Port Way, Columbia, MO 65201. The meeting will begin with an open house from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., followed by an NRC presentation and opportunity to hear public comments from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., as necessary. An NRC meeting notice will be published to provide more details about these public meetings. A separate Notice of Availability of the draft EIS will be placed in the Federal Register through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Robert Hoffman, Environmental Scientist, at 301-415-1107 or by e-mail at Robert.Hoffman@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jeffrey J. Rikhoff, Acting Chief
Environmental Review and Projects Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-609

Enclosures:

1. Draft EIS
2. *Federal Register* Notice

A copy of the draft EIS with this conclusion is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft EIS and on our preliminary conclusion. Electronic comments on the draft EIS may be submitted to the NRC by accessing www.regulations.gov and searching for Docket ID NRC-2013-0053. Written comments may be mailed to the NRC at:

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Letter to Reid Nelson from Jeffrey J. Rikhoff dated November 7, 2016

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