



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

February 4, 2019

Mr. Matthew Bussler, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Department of Language and Culture  
59291 Indian Lake Road  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. ARMY'S SOURCE MATERIAL LICENSE FOR  
THE JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND (DOCKET NUMBER: 40-8838)

Dear Mr. Bussler:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing a request by the U.S. Department of the Army (Army) to amend the Army's source material license (SUB-1435) from "possession-only for decommissioning" to "possession-only" and to exempt the Army from the NRC's decommissioning timeliness requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 40.42(d). The license currently authorizes possession-only for decommissioning of up to 80,000 kilograms (176,370 pounds) of depleted uranium metal, alloy, and/or other forms, kept onsite in a restricted area known as the "Depleted Uranium Impact Area" at the Jefferson Proving Ground in southeastern Indiana. If the NRC grants the amendment and the exemption requests, the NRC staff anticipates establishing a license condition that would exempt the Army from the need to submit a decommissioning plan for 20 years, at which time the Army would be required to submit a license amendment request and provide a basis for continuing the exemption.

As part of its review, the NRC staff has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft finding of no significant impact, enclosed. Please provide any comments on the draft EA within 30 days of receiving this letter. Comments should be submitted in writing by one of these means: through the Federal Rulemaking Web Site (go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2019-0027); through the U.S. mail to Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 (include Docket ID NRC-2019-0027 in the subject line); or by e-mail to [JPG-EA@nrc.gov](mailto:JPG-EA@nrc.gov). The NRC staff will consider all comments we receive on the draft EA.

The NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>) Accession Number for the draft EA is ML19008A310. You can also access the draft EA at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1900/ML19008A310.pdf>.

If you have any questions about the proposed licensing action or the environmental review, please contact Ms. Christine Pineda, Project Manager for the EA, at (301) 415-6789 or via e-mail at [Christine.Pineda@nrc.gov](mailto:Christine.Pineda@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Cintha I. Román, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,  
and Environmental Review  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 40-8838  
License No. SUB-1435

Enclosure:  
Draft Environmental Assessment

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**DATED:** February 4, 2019

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**\*via e-mail**

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