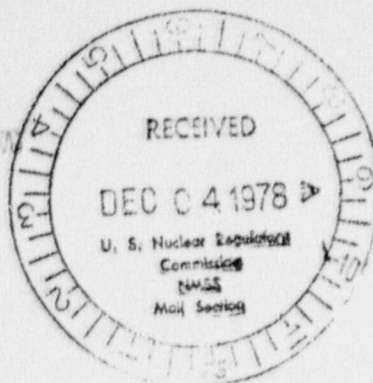


INRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM



STATE OF UTAH

Scott M. Matheson, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Division of State History

Melvin T. Smith, Director
603 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Telephone: (801) 533-5755

November 24, 1978

Mr. Ross A. Scarano, Section Leader
Uranium Mill Licensing Section
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: White Mesa Uranium Project, San Juan County, UT B746SL/J-1

Dear Mr. Scarano:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the no adverse effect letter which we issued concerning the mill site itself, and a report concerning the status of all of the archeological sites that have been identified within the proposed area. A historic survey has not been conducted by qualified historians, so at this time we cannot comment on the historic qualities. However, one will be conducted and completed by December 31, 1978.

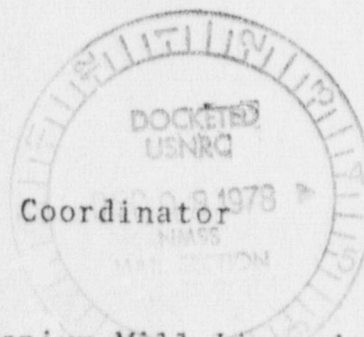
In order to complete 106 review it is necessary for NRC to apply criteria of eligibility and criteria of effect to every site that has been or that will be identified. Those that will be determined eligible and adversely effected will have to be mitigated under the provisions of 36 CFR 800 or the NRC will have to enter the consultation process with the Advisory Council.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Utah State Historical Society, 307 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, (801) 533-6017.

Sincerely,

Wilson G. Martin
Preservation Development Coordinator

WGM:jr/B746SJ/J-1



FREE EXEMPT

11374

cc: Mr. E. A. Trager, Uranium Mill Licensing Section, Division
of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety, Nuclear Regulatory
Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

cc: George Glasier, Energy Fuels Nuclear

7812180276
Enclosures

STATE HISTORY BOARD: Dr. Milton C. Abrams, Chairman • Theron H. Luke • Dr. Ted J. Warner • Elizabeth Montague • Howard C. Price, Jr.
Dr. Dello G. Dayton • Dr. Wayne K. Hinton • Helen Z. Papanikolas • David S. Monson • Elizabeth Griffith • Mabel J. Oliver



STATE OF UTAH

Scott M. Matheson, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

J. Phillip Keene III
Executive Director
104 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
Telephone: (801) 533-5961

September 22, 1978

AT George
Olosic ✓
Energy Fuels Corporation
Executive Offices, Suite 900
Three Park Central
1515 Arapahoe
Denver, CO 80202

RE: White Mesa (mill area only) West 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of
the SE 1/4 of Section 28 and the East 1/2 of the SE
1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 28, San Juan County, Utah

Gentlemen:

Staff has reviewed the proposed mill site and feel that
this project as now proposed for the above area will have
no adverse effect on archeological site #42SA6384a site
that, to the best of our information appears to be eligible
for inclusion on the National Register.

This site has already been recovered using procedures for
determination of no adverse effect, see enclosed. A report
will be issued by our office at a date yet to be determined.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact
Wilson G. Martin, Preservation Development Coordinator,
Utah State Historical Society, 307 West 200 South, Salt
Lake City, Utah 84101, 533-6017.

Sincerely,

J. Phillip Keene III
Executive Director
and
State Historic Preservation Officer

WGM:jr:B746EJ/J-1

CC.

M E M O

TO: David Madsen
FROM: Asa Nielson
DATE: November 27, 1978
RE: Intensive Cultural Research Survey for Energy Fuels
Nuclear. Blanding, Utah.

During the period of October 30 - November 1, 7, and 15-18, an intensive survey was conducted on lands belonging to Energy Fuels Nuclear of Denver, Colorado, by Mr. Asa Nielson and Mr. Bruce Hawkins of the Antiquities Section, Division of State History.

The area surveyed includes; T37S, R22E, Section 21, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 22, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 27, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 28, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, and Section 32, S $\frac{2}{3}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$. The survey was conducted by completing several transects across the area using brunton compasses and natural land marks for guidance. Surveyors were spaced no greater than 20 m apart during the transects. Sites located were recorded, photographed, and plotted on a large project map generously supplied by Energy Fuels Nuclear. Minimal surface collections were conducted on selected sites to aid in identifying cultural occupation. All artifacts, photographs, site inventory forms and maps have been filed at the Division of State History, Antiquities Section, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The area surveyed consists of the extreme northeast and southwest sections of Energy Fuels Nuclear holding. A detailed environmental description for the entire project area has been reported elsewhere (Lindsay et al, 1978; Lindsay and

Dykman, 1978). Briefly, the northeast section is dominated by numerous Quaternary eoline sand dunes cut by recent erosion. In one location, the sand has been eroded down to expose the Dakota Sandstone cap of White Mesa.

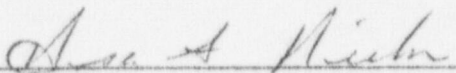
The eastern third of this area remains unaltered except for two power lines. This area is dominated by a light juniper forest with a sage-rabbit brush understory. Corral Canyon forms the eastern boundary of the area. The remainder has been historically chained, ploughed, and reseeded for agricultural purposes.

The southwest section is bordered by Westwater Canyon, a major tributary of Cottonwood Wash. The area consists of deep Quaternary eoline sands overlying Dakota Sandstone Formation. The western half is currently undergoing heavy erosion, and contains a light to medium juniper forest with a sage/rabbit brush understory. The eastern half of the area has been historically chained, ploughed, and reseeded for agricultural purposes. Vegetation on the east half is now dominated by introduced crested wheat grasses, and reoccurring growths of sage, rabbit brush and wolf-berry.

The current survey resulted in the recording of 44 new sites (42Sa7653-65, 7668-76, 7679-7700), and 5 other sites (42Sa3766, 6432, 6434 and 6438-39) which had been previously recorded. A total of 21 of the 49 sites recorded have been determined significant based on the presence of observed surface structures, midden deposits, and/or visible subsurface depressions. Twenty-six (26) of the 49 sites have been determined to be of unknown significance due to surface

disturbance (i.e. chaining, ploughing, or natural erosion), which has displaced or altered prehistoric surface indicators. The remaining two (2) sites have been judged as not significant due to intensive natural or historic (man caused) impacts which have rendered scientific information recovery near zero.

All sites, including those reported earlier (Thompson, 1978; Lindsay et al, 1978) now total 112. Ten (10) of these have been judged not significant through surface observation or subsequent test procedures. A total of fifty (50) are of known significance while the remainder (52) are of unknown significance. It is recommended that those sites that will face immediate or future impact via construction or development of the Energy Fuels Nuclear Project be subjected to testing for significance or salvage where it is deemed appropriate by proper mitigation procedures.



Asa S. Nielson

White Mesa Site List

<u>Site</u>	<u>Non-tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Justification for Significance</u>
42Sa3766	X			Unknown	
42Sa6379	X			Yes	Observed Structure
42Sa6380		X		No	
42Sa6381	X			Unknown	
42Sa6382	X			Unknown	
42Sa6383	X			Unknown	
42Sa6384		X	X	Yes	Excavated Structures
42Sa6385		X		Yes	Observed subsurface structure
42Sa6386		X		No	
42Sa6387		X		Yes	Observed subsurface structures
42Sa6388		X		Yes	
42Sa6389	X			Unknown	
42Sa6390	X			Unknown	
42Sa6391		X		Yes	Observed Subsurface Structures
42Sa6392		X		Yes	Burial, sub- surface features
42Sa6393		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structure

<u>Site</u>	<u>Non-tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Justification for Significance</u>
42Sa6394		X		Yes	structure Observed sub- surface
42Sa6395		X		Yes	structure Observed sub- surface
42Sa6396		X		Yes	structure Observed sub- surface
42Sa6397	X			No	structure
42Sa6398	X			Unknown	
42Sa6399	X			Unknown	
42Sa6400	X			Unknown	
42Sa6401	X			Unknown	
42Sa6402	X			Unknown	
42Sa6403		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structure
42Sa6404		X		No	
42Sa6405		X			Unknown
42Sa6406	X			Unknown	
42Sa6407	X			Unknown	
42Sa6408	X			Yes	Observed surface structure
42Sa6419	X			Unknown	
42Sa6420	X			Unknown	
42Sa6421	X			Unknown	
42Sa6422	X			Unknown	
42Sa6423	X			Unknown	
42Sa6424	X			Unknown	
42Sa6425	X			Unknown	
42Sa6426	X			Unknown	
42Sa6427	X			Yes	Observed surface structures
42Sa6428	X			Unknown	
42Sa6429		X		Yes	Observed surface

<u>Site</u>	<u>Non-tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Justification for Significance</u>
42Sa6430	X			Yes	& subsurface structures Observed surface structures & depression
42Sa6431	X			Unknown	
42Sa6432	X			Yes	Observed surface structure & depression
42Sa6433	X			Unknown	
42Sa6434	X			Unknown	
42Sa6435		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structures
42Sa6436		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structures
42Sa6437		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structures
42Sa6438	X			Unknown	
42Sa6439	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depression
42Sa6440	X			Unknown	
42Sa6441	X			Yes	Observed surface structures
42Sa6442	X			Unknown	
42Sa6443	X			Yes	Observed evi- dence for sur- face structure & depression
42Sa6444	X			Yes	Observed evi- dence for sur- face & subsur- face features
42Sa6445	X			Yes	Observed surface

<u>Site</u>	<u>Non-tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Justification for Significance</u>
42Sa6684		X		No	structure
42Sa6685		X		No	
42Sa6686		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structure
42Sa6697		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structures
42Sa6698		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structures
42Sa6699		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structures
42Sa6739	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depression
42Sa6740	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depressions
42Sa6754		X		No	
42Sa6757		X		Yes	Observed sub- surface structure
42Sa7653	X			Yes	Observed surface structure- depression
42Sa7654	X			No	
42Sa7655	X			Yes	Observed surface structures
42Sa7656	X			Yes	Observed surface structure
42Sa7657	X			Yes	Observed surface structures
42Sa7658	X			Yes	Observed surface structures

<u>Site</u>	<u>Non-tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Justification for Significance</u>
42Sa7659	X			Yes	Observed surface structures
42Sa7660	X			Yes	Observed surface structure & depression
42Sa7661	X			Yes	Observed surface structure & depression
42Sa7662	X			Unknown	
42Sa7663	X			Unknown	
42Sa7664	X			Unknown	
42Sa7665	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depressions
42Sa7668	X			Yes	Observed surface structures
42Sa7669	X			Unknown	
42Sa7670	X			Unknown	
42Sa7671	X			Unknown	
42Sa7672	X			Unknown	
42Sa7673	X			Unknown	
42Sa7674	X			Unknown	
42Sa7675	X			Yes	Observed surface structure & depression (?)
42Sa7676	X			Unknown	
42Sa7679	X			Unknown	
42Sa7680	X			Unknown	
42Sa7681	X			Unknown	
42Sa7682	X			Unknown	
42Sa7683	X			Unknown	
42Sa7684	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depressions
42Sa7685	X			Unknown	
42Sa7686	X			Unknown	
42Sa7687	X			Yes	Observed surface

<u>Site</u>	<u>Non-tested</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>Excavated</u>	<u>Significance</u>	<u>Justification for Significance</u>
42Sa7688	X			Unknown	structure & depression
42Sa7689	X			Yes	Observed surface structure & depressions
42Sa7690	X			Yes	Massive structure & depressions on site
42Sa7691	X			Yes	Massive hilltop ruin, numerous surface struct. & depressions
42Sa7692	X			Unknown	
42Sa7693	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depressions
42Sa7694	X			Unknown	
42Sa7695	X			Unknown	
42Sa7696	X			Yes	Observed surface structures & depression
42Sa7697	X			Unknown	
42Sa7698	X			No	
42Sa7699	X			Unknown	
42Sa7700	X			Yes	Observed structures & depression