

PDR

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(307)  
635-3416

November 3, 1979

## WYOMING OUTDOOR COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1184

2003 Central

Cheyenne, WY 82001

P.O. Box 23

331 Main #9

Lander, WY 82520

307/332-2936

Ron S. Kauffmann  
Waste Management Division  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
483-SS  
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Kauffmann,

The Wyoming Outdoor Council would like submit the following comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding its permitting process for the OPI-Western Joint Venture in Fremont County, Wyoming.

By way of an initial comment, the manner in which the scoping meeting was conducted is commendable. The purpose of the meeting was made clear and the described process was followed through. A meeting such as this helps to set parameters which permit constructive discussion.

A major criticism can be made, unfortunately, of the scoping meeting in that it did not receive sufficient advance notice and the needed informational documents were not made available. The Casper Star Tribune, a newspaper of state-wide circulation, carried an article about the scoping meeting in its October 31st issue. The Wyoming State Journal, a newspaper from Lander, Wy., carried an article on the 31st as well, but many people do not have delivery of the paper until the following morning. I have been told that the Riverton Ranger carried an article a week before the meeting. The earlier notification through the Ranger was not sufficient as it does not have a county-wide circulation of news by itself. Additionally, Lander is the major town closest to the project.

In a telephone conversation with Kathy Hammill of your office, she confirmed that the environmental report from OPI-Western was not widely available to the public. According to Nancy Bedont, Wyoming State Planning Coordinators Office, she was not notified of the meeting until October 23rd. The Land Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality did not receive the environmental report until October 31st.

In an effort to rectify the situation, the Wyoming Outdoor Council has prepared the following comments, recommendations and mailing list. It would be to the advantage of the people of Wyoming and to the NRC in fulfilling its obligations to take to heart the recommendations.

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— Recycled Paper —

C add info

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regarding OPI-Western project from  
Wyoming Outdoor Council

Due to the fact that the NRC provided extremely short notice for the November 1, 1979 scoping meeting for the OPI-Western project, several interested citizens were not able to arrange their schedules to attend the meeting. The attached list of names and addresses is provided to underscore to the NRC that there is interest and concern regarding this project in Fremont County. Individuals who were able to attend the November 1st meeting are noted with an asterisk. The individuals on this mailing list would appreciate receiving any information or notification of availability ~~related~~ to this project.

In contacting people to inform them about the meeting and the general aspects of in-situ mining, it was clear that they were not happy with the manner in which the initial aspects of the scoping process were handled. It is hoped that the process as it continues and shifts to the draft environmental statement process will improve. Early notification and information are essential for reasonable, intelligent and insightful comments. Lack of notification and information only perpetuate generalized and 'emotional' commenting processes.

Public notification of information and/or availability should also be sent in a timely fashion to newspapers in the area and the state-wide newspaper. Listed below are the newspapers pertinent to the Fremont County area. It is suggested that for other projects in other areas, NRC compile a similar list of newspapers and publication dates.

Casper Star-Tribune; East First and Jefferson, Casper, Wy 82601; Contact - Jeff Thomas; publication - daily.

Wyoming State Journal; Box J, Lander, Wy 82520; Contact - Bruce McCormack; publication - Tuesday and Thursday.

Fremont County Free Press; Box FF, Lander, Wy 82520; Contact - Dennis Moss; publication - Wednesday.

Riverton Ranger; Box 993, Riverton, Wy 82501; Contact - Dave Perry; publication - Monday through Friday.

High Country News; Box K, Lander, Wy 82520; Contact - Marjane Ambler; publication - every other week with the next publication on November 16th

The Outdoor Council would appreciate receiving copies of press releases related to the OPI-Western project as well as all other NRC permitted projects in Wyoming. As a state-wide citizens conservation organization, the Wyoming Outdoor Council would appreciate being placed on the NRC master mailing list. The Outdoor Council's interest in NRC regulatory activities is keen especially since Wyoming produces 45% of the nation's yellowcake.

Providing information to interested citizens on the OPI-Western Joint Venture will play a vital role for compliance with the spirit of the Council of Environmental Quality scoping process. In this light, the Outdoor Council recommends that all public information or notification of its availability be deposited in the Fremont County Public Library system. Two copies of each document or notification should be sent to the attention of Ms. Sandy Ebersold at Fremont County Public Library; 451 North Second; Lander, Wyoming 82520. She will place the information in the main library in Lander and in the Riverton Branch.

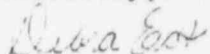
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regarding OPI-Western project from  
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Information which should be filed immediately includes the OPI-Western Environmental Report, the CEQ scoping and environmental impact statement guidelines, NRC regulatory guides related to uranium in-situ operations and "Ground-water Elements of In-Situ Leach Mining of Uranium" (NUREG/CR-0311). The Outdoor Council requests notification that these and any additional documents have been sent to ensure that the documents are received and properly placed in Fremont County.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council hopes that the NRC will utilize the council's recommendations and mailing list effectively. Further comments by the Outdoor Council regarding the specifics of the proposal will be forthcoming following receipt of the environmental report by OPI-Western. Prompt mailing of this report would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Debra East  
Field Representative - Lander

Attachment - Citizens mailing list

cc: Nancy Bedont, Wyoming State Planning Coordinators Office  
Ed Francis, District Engineer, Land Quality Division, Wyoming Department of  
Environmental Quality

90030140

TO: R.S. Kauffmann

FROM: Wyoming Outdoor Council

RE: Citizens in Fremont County, Wyoming concerned about Bison Basin In-situ;  
A Mailing List

T.C. Allen  
545 S. 4th  
Lander, Wy 82520

Del Nelson  
625 West Lane  
Lander, Wy 32520

Marjane Ambler  
Box K  
Lander, Wy 82520

Dave & Mae Raynolds  
Box 105 Rt. 63  
Lander, Wy 82520

August Dailer  
1010 Dabich  
Lander, Wy 82520

Jacque Shaw  
Wyoming State Training School  
Lander, Wy 82520

Ann Fontane  
Rt 63 Box 16  
Lander, Wy 82520

John Vinich  
Box 67  
Hudson, Wy 82515

\*Ray Fuller  
Box 575  
Lander, Wy 82520

Sara H. Wiles  
Box 348  
Lander, Wy 82520

Phillippina Halstead  
990 Sprigs  
Lander, Wy 82520

Dave Johnson  
Box 1078  
Lander, Wy 82520

Eleanor Kendall  
415 N. First  
Riverton, Wy 82501

\*Helen Krause  
1621 Cannett Drive  
Riverton, Wy 82501

Mary Morehouse  
373 Popo Agie  
Lander, Wy 82520

John Mlonczynski  
Box 250 Rt. 62  
(Atlantic City)  
Lander, Wy 82520

\*Francis & Charles Nations  
711 S. 3rd  
Lander, Wy 82520

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\*attended the November 1, 1979 NRC scoping meeting for OPI-Western