



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

June 1, 2021

Randal J. Scott, President
and Chief Executive Officer
Rare Element Resources
P.O. Box 271049
Littleton, CO 80122

**SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO
SUSPEND ITS REVIEW OF RARE ELEMENT RESOURCES SOURCE
MATERIAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE BEAR LODGE PROJECT
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (Docket Number 040-36387)**

Dear Mr. Scott:

I am writing in response to your letter, dated May 18, 2021, in which you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff continue to suspend its review of the Rare Element Resources (RER) license application for the Bear Lodge Project in Wyoming until September 30, 2023 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML21139A034).

By letter dated October 23, 2019, the NRC staff agreed to suspend its review of the license application until September 30, 2020, and informed RER that it would need to inform the NRC of the status of the project by September 30, 2020 (ADAMS Accession Number ML19276D362). In discussions with Jaye Pickarts, and during a meeting with NRC regarding a proposed pilot project on May 10, 2021 (ADAMS Accession Number ML21137A125), the NRC staff informed RER that this notification had not been received and requested that RER determine the status of the Bear Lodge Project and inform NRC staff if RER wanted the NRC staff to resume its review of the Bear Lodge Project license application. Your May 18, 2021, letter is in response to the NRC staff's request and indicates that the rationale for the continued suspension of the review of the Bear Lodge Project license application is so that RER can complete the aforementioned pilot demonstration project and use the information gleaned from the pilot project to support and update the Bear Lodge Project license application.

The NRC staff has reviewed your request and agrees to continue to suspend its review of the Bear Lodge Project license application until September 30, 2023. However, we strongly urge that you inform the NRC staff of the status of the Bear Lodge Project as soon as possible before September 30, 2023. The NRC develops budgets two years before the relevant fiscal year and until RER informs the NRC staff of its plans, the NRC staff would not include resources to resume the Bear Lodge Project license application review and, this could result in a delay in the NRC staff's resumption of the review of the Bear Lodge Project license application.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-3285 or by email at Brittany.bolz@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Bolz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signed by Bolz, Brittany
on 06/01/21

Brittany Bolz, Health Physicist
Uranium Recovery and Materials
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: Jaye Pickarts, RER

Letter from NRC to R. Scott, RER re Response to 5/18/2021 request to continue suspension of license application review DATE June 1, 2021

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DATE	May 25, 2021	May 25, 2021	Jun 1, 2021	Jun 1, 2021

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