



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834-2436
<http://www.blm.gov>



June 8, 2012

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Nichols Ranch Uranium ISR Project (WYW-169904)

Certified Mail No: 7010-1670-0001-0188-9678
Return Receipt Requested

Mike Thomas
Uranerz Energy Corporation
P.O. Box 50850
Casper, WY 82605

Subject: Nichols Ranch Plan of Operations Complete, Public Review Initiation

Dear Mike:

The BLM Buffalo Field Office (BFO) received your May 22 response to my April 19 deficiency letter regarding the Nichols Ranch/Hank Unit Uranium In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Mine Plan of Operations (Plan). I have determined the Plan to be complete, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.401(b).

Once BLM receives the digital files from TRC Solutions, BLM will publish a notice that the Plan is available for public review in the Casper Star Tribune. BLM will accept public comments for 30 calendar days following publication. The public review will initiate the environmental analysis (NEPA) process. The 30 day notice of availability and public review also fulfills BLM's 43 CFR 3809.411(c) requirements.

The Plan will be available for public review at the BLM-Buffalo Field Office, 1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, Wyoming, and on BFO's project webpage at:
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/bfo/nichols-ranch.html>.

Although not a completeness issue there are a few wildlife matters that Uranerz should consider as we begin the NEPA process:

Eagle roosts and raptor nests

The ore body, along the section 7 and section 8 (T43R75) border, lies within ½ mile of the bald eagle communal winter roosts on Willow Creek.

Plans for construction outside the roosting season are consistent with Buffalo BLM management; however, the 2001 Buffalo Resource Management Plan states: Surface disturbance or occupancy is not allowed w/in ½ mile of communal winter roosts 11/1 – 3/30. This restriction on surface occupancy is not compatible with currently proposed operations and maintenance.

BLM requests Uranerz begin communications with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (307-772-2374) to address the bald eagle roost. If the USFWS finds Uranerz plans acceptable, then the BLM will incorporate USFWS findings into our NEPA analyses.

Conservation measures proposed to protect the golden eagle nest 4528 during construction appear adequate; however, operations and maintenance may have an adverse impact to nesting eagles. BLM requests Uranerz begin communications with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to address golden eagle nest protections. BLM will incorporate USFWS findings into our NEPA analyses.

Migratory Birds

BLM requests Uranerz begin communications with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to specifically address migratory bird protections. BLM will incorporate USFWS findings into our NEPA analyses.

Greater sage-grouse

The proposed action is not consistent with the BFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) (2001) as maintained or the Governor of Wyoming Executive Order (EO) 2011-5. The current proposal includes surface disturbing activities during construction and disruptive activities during operations.

Both the BFO RMP and the EO prohibit surface disturbing and disruptive activities during the nesting season within 2 miles of occupied leks for areas outside of core or connectivity habitat. The BFO seasonal prohibition dates are from March 15 through June 30.

The BLM requests Uranerz either comply with the BFO RMP and EO or receive a letter from WY Game and Fish stating the sage-grouse impacts from the proposed action are acceptable. BLM will incorporate WY Game and Fish findings into our NEPA analyses.

Overhead power lines

Please indicate locations (rock outcrops, incised drainages) on the map where overhead power lines would likely be necessary.

Additional information from Uranerz may become necessary to continue processing the Plan as the public comments are reviewed, and the environmental analysis proceeds.

For further information please contact Thomas Bills, Project Manager (telephone: 307- 684-1133, email tbills@blm.gov), or Kerry Aggen, Geologist (telephone: 307- 684-1196, email kaggen@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Clark Bennett for

Duane W. Spencer
Field Manager