

# GAS HILLS URANIUM PROJECT EIS FACT SHEET

## What is the Gas Hills Uranium Project?

Power Resources, Inc. (PRI) doing business as Cameco Resources (Cameco) proposes to conduct *in situ* recovery (ISR) uranium exploration and development in the Gas Hills area, approximately 50 miles east of Riverton, WY and 84 miles west of Casper, WY. The Gas Hills Mining District has been one of the major uranium-producing regions in the United States. Much of the surface area within and adjacent to the PRI permit area was extensively mined for uranium from the 1950s to the early 1980s.

Cameco's proposed project area includes 7,940 acres of federal surface (including 8,006 of federal mineral), 161 acres of state and 394 acres of private lands. Over the anticipated 25-year life of the project, surface disturbance will be limited to the construction of water wells, buried water pipelines, single-lane gravel access roads, and small buildings for wellhead manifold control equipment.

The Project is permitted by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – Land Quality Division (LQD) under Permit to Mine No. 687 and is licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission under Source Materials License SUQ-1548.

## Why is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Involved?

The BLM is responsible for managing mineral rights access on certain federal lands as authorized by the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Under the law, persons are entitled to reasonable access to explore for and develop mineral deposits on public lands that have not been withdrawn from mineral entry.

In order to use public lands managed by the BLM's Lander Field Office, Cameco must comply with the BLM Surface Management Regulations (43 CFR 3809) and other applicable statutes, including the Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970 (as amended) and Federal Lands Policy Management Act (FLPMA). The BLM must review Cameco's plans for developing the Gas Hills Project to ensure the following:

- Adequate provisions are included to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of federal lands and to protect the non-mineral resources of the federal lands;
- Measures are included to provide for reclamation of disturbed areas; and
- Compliance with applicable state and federal laws is achieved.



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## What is an EIS and why is it being prepared?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared under the direction of the Bureau of Land Management, as the lead federal agency for the Gas Hills Uranium Project. The EIS will be developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and BLM NEPA implementing regulations. NEPA requires that environmental information be made available to the public and public officials before decisions are made.

## What is an EIS and why is it being prepared?

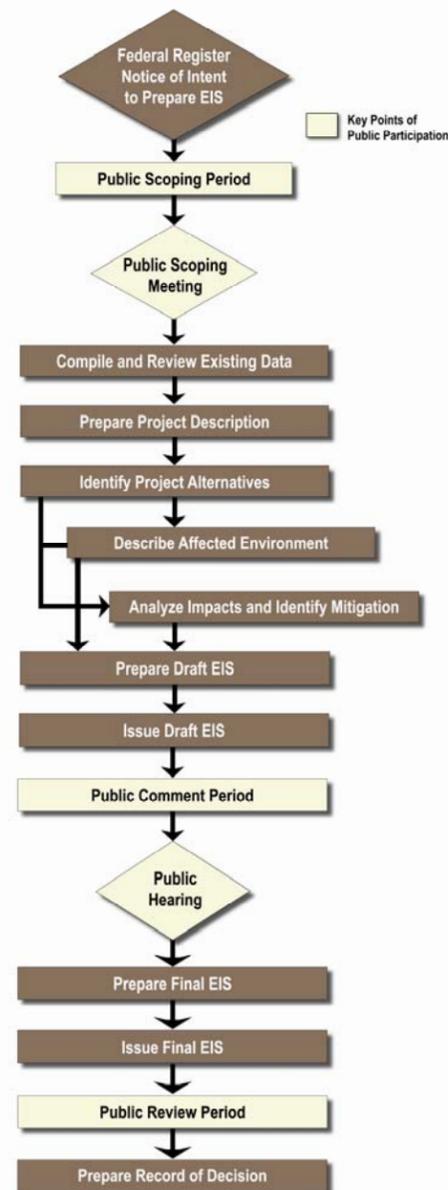
Under the requirements of NEPA, an EIS is prepared for major federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. The federal lead agency with jurisdiction over the project (in this case, the BLM) is responsible for preparing the EIS. The EIS will assess and document the potential environmental, cultural, social, economic, and other potential effects of the proposed project and identify opportunities to reduce or mitigate adverse impacts. Additionally, the EIS will evaluate the impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives.

## How will the EIS be prepared?

The BLM has elected to use a "third-party contract" process to prepare the EIS; this process is commonly used by the BLM and other federal agencies. Under this process, a private contractor is selected by the lead agency and paid by the applicant to prepare the document under the direction of the lead agency. In this way, the cost of the environmental review and permitting process is borne primarily by the applicant and not by taxpayers. The consultant selected to prepare the Gas Hills Uranium EIS for the BLM is AECOM.

The BLM directly supervises the third-party contractor to ensure that the EIS is consistent with NEPA and its implementing regulations. Furthermore, the BLM is responsible for final acceptance of the Draft and Final EIS and for preparation of the Record of Decision.

## NEPA Process



## What is scoping?

The scoping process begins once the federal lead agency has decided to prepare an EIS and the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS is published in the *Federal Register*. Scoping is the process of actively acquiring input from the public and other interested Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. Information gained during scoping assist the lead agencies in identifying potential environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures associated with development of the proposed project. The process provides a mechanism for narrowing the scope of issues, so that the EIS can focus the analysis on areas of high interest and concern. Therefore, public participation in the scoping process is a vital component in preparing a sound, defensible NEPA document. Scoping provides the public and agencies opportunities for meaningful involvement in the decision-making process.

## How can I be involved in the EIS process?

Attend a scoping meeting scheduled near you to learn more about the project. The meeting will provide you the opportunity to ask questions, express any concerns, and submit your comments. At the meeting, be sure to sign in and request to have your contact information placed on the project mailing list. This will ensure that you are kept up-to-date on project activities and receive notices about future ways to provide input.

Participate and provide comment in the public review of the Draft EIS. You will be notified when the Draft EIS is completed and available for review.

For more project information, you can visit the BLM Lander Field Office website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/1fodocs/gashills.html>.

## Tips For Providing Effective Comments

Your participation is an important part of the decision-making process!

- Submit your comments on potential impacts and ideas for project alternatives.
- Review the BLM website, monitor local newspapers, attend public meetings, and become familiar with the proposed project development.
- Provide substantive and concise written comments.
- Learn about the NEPA process and when in the process the BLM will receive comments.
- Keep your comments focused on the proposed project being analyzed.
- Submit your comments within the timeframes announced. This helps the BLM to include all concerns in the NEPA document.
- Make sure that you are on the EIS mailing list to receive notification of public meetings or project information, or both.

## How to Submit Comments

- Written comments may be submitted at the public scoping meetings;
- You can mail your comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Lander Field Office, Attn: Kristin Yannone, Project Manager, P.O. Box 589, Lander, WY 82520; or
- Email your comments to: [Gas\\_Hills\\_Uranium\\_EIS\\_WY@BLM.gov](mailto:Gas_Hills_Uranium_EIS_WY@BLM.gov).

**Submit written comments to BLM by December 15, 2010.**

## Scoping Meetings in your area:

**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**  
 Natrona County Public Library  
 307 East Second Street  
 Casper, WY 82601  
 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 27, 2010**  
 Fremont County Library  
 Riverton Branch  
 1330 West Park Avenue  
 Riverton, WY 82501  
 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, October 28, 2010**  
 Fremont County Library  
 Lander Branch  
 200 Amoretti Street  
 Lander, WY 82520  
 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

