Sheep Mountain Uranium Project
Proposed by Titan Uranium USA, Inc.
Environmental Impact Statement - Public Scoping Comments Summary

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Introduction:

Titan Uranium USA Inc. submitted a Plan of Operations for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project, which was received in the Lander Field Office on June 16, 2011.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to commence with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project (project) was published in the Federal Register on August 23, 2011, which began the 45 day public scoping period. (**Appendix A**) The public scoping ended on October 11, 2011. Letters written prior to October 11 were accepted for the record.

On August 23, 2011, a press release was sent by email by BLM to local and statewide newspapers, and the Wyoming U.S. Congressional Delegation, announcing the NOI and the initiation of the EIS. (**Appendix A**) The press release also stated the dates, times, and places for the public scoping meetings.

The BLM mailed 39 "Dear Interested Party" letters on August 26, 2011. The recipients included the grazing permittees and local landowners within the area of the proposed project, the Fremont County Congressional delegation, and members of the public who had asked to be on the mailing list. The letter notified the public about the project, the intent to prepare an EIS, information about the upcoming scoping meetings, the website address to review the Plan of Operations and information about the proposed project, and how to submit comments to the BLM. A map of the project area was included. (**Appendix A**)

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Public Scoping Meetings:

Three public scoping meetings were held as follows:

Meeting Location	Meeting Date and Time	Number of Attendees (Public)
Fremont County Library, Lander Branch Lander, Wyoming	Tuesday, September 13, 2011 5 pm – 7 pm	7
Fremont County Library, Riverton Branch Riverton, Wyoming	Wednesday, September 14, 2011 5 pm – 7 pm	14
Jeffrey City Fire Hall Jeffrey City, Wyoming	Thursday, September 15, 2011 5 pm – 7 pm	7

Meetings were conducted as 'open house' format. Personnel from the project proponent, Titan Uranium, and their sub-contractor, BRS Energy, were on hand to answer technical questions from the public regarding the project, and questions about the company. BLM staff members were available to answer technical and procedural questions about the project and the EIS.

Informational, directional posters were on the doors stating it was the Bureau of Land Management, Public Scoping Meeting, Sheep Mountain Uranium Project, Environmental Impact Statement.

Sign in sheets, comment forms, and informational handouts were on a table at the door, with a BLM staff member attending and greeting. The handouts included a 'business card' with the email address to send comments. Another was a print-out of the location of the project on the BLM website.

At the meetings of September 14 and 15, a news release was available announcing the first Cooperating Agency meeting, but also reminded the public that the public scoping period was open, and again, how to submit comments.

The sign in sheets had an optional box to check if the individual would like to be added to the Sheep Mountain email list. The interested public email list was updated at the completion of the three public meetings.

Additional comment forms were on a table with chairs in another area for individuals who might be interested in writing comments at the meeting. Informational materials available to the public are provided in **Appendix B**.

Visual aids from the BLM included maps of the project vicinity with overlays for various wildlife concerns, the transportation routes, and the project area. Visual aids from BRS/Titan included three 3-D posters depicting the area as it now is, what it may look like during production, and what it may look like after final reclamation.

A news reporter for a Casper television station attended the Lander meeting, conducting interviews, and a brief news clip was on the evening news.

A reporter from the Casper Star Tribune attended the Jeffrey City meeting.

Summary of Scoping Comments

One comment form was filled in and submitted at the meeting in Riverton.

During the scoping period, eight written comments were received, predominantly from government agencies and political representatives. Copies of the written comments are attached. (**Appendix C**)

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Compilation of verbal comments from the scoping meetings which were held September 13, 14, and 15, and other verbal comments expressed by the public during the scoping period:

Verbal comments at all three of the public meetings voiced support for the project.

Some people in attendance had historic connections to the mine from the 1970's era, and are interested in seeing it open again. Some offered stories about their work experiences.

One individual expressed concerns for miner safety.

Attendees were interested in learning about the heap leach mining process.

Support was voiced for the project for new jobs and economic growth in the county.

The project is planned to last for 15 to 20 years and will not operate 24 hours a day, so it should not be a 'boom and bust' cycle like what has historically happened.

Attendees were also supportive of the reclamation which will take place during the project.

The project has very strong local support from Jeffrey City and the outlying ranchers and areas.

Concerns about hunting changes in the area: will this project cause major changes to how the wildlife act, and move.

What types of fences will be used? Will the fences pose a hazard to or restrict movement of wildlife?

How will this project affect how the area looks from the road? Will there be any changes to how it looks now?

How will the water be affected? Will Crooks Creek be changed to flow again, like it did before the Western Nuclear Lake was formed in the 1970's?

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Compilation of written comments from the scoping period (Appendix C):

Written comments were received from:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Wyoming State Senator Eli D. Bebout
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD)
- US DOI Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming State Senator Stan Cooper

Compilation of Concerns:

Protection of human health.

Protection of the environment.

Review of possible reasonable alternatives to heap leaching, such as in situ recovery technology.

Instead of reclaiming the heap leach in place, could the material be put in lined impoundments in the mine pits, covered mine spoils and overburden, then top soil, and recontoured and revegetated to blend in with the topography.

The potential for the heap material to continue to generate acid after the heap has been spent.

Will the final cap be adequate to protect humans and animals? What is the potential for radiation to migrate into vegetation, which will be grazed by cattle or wildlife, and then potentially into the human food chain?

Why is this project using heap leach? Why not conventional milling at an off-site facility?

Protection of humans from radiation exposure both at the site and surrounding community. Radiation may be through radon gas, radioactive decay products in the food chain, or radionuclide dust, any of which may impact air, watersheds, animals, or vegetation.

Increase of off-road and on-road vehicular traffic, which may result in human or animal mortality.

Impacts to water resources. Crooks Creek from inflows of surface water, and groundwater concerns. Ephemeral streams and their alluvial aquifers and the potential for contaminants.

Surface water and groundwater use concerns, including the protection of domestic and agricultural water sources, and any domestic drinking water.

Will there be protective measures where mine shafts intercept aquifers so there is not a conduit for groundwater flow to become contaminated?

Erosion and stormwater runoff sediment transportation could impair waters and affect aquatic species.

Air quality concerns were expressed, including the possibility of pollutants from the mining activity or associated traffic on gravel roads in the area (dust); ambient concentrations of hazardous air pollutants, and air quality related values such as visibility and deposition.

What mitigative measures are planned for dust control?

Possible environmental contaminants and wildlife toxicology including the possible risk to migratory birds and wildlife from the byproducts of the heap leach process. Possible risk to aquatic organisms from metals, radionuclides, and total dissolved solids.

Any radioactive zones or open water pits should have bird deterrent devices.

The proposed mine activity and processing will not impact crucial winter ranges for big game or core area for sage grouse. However, new fencing may impact pronghorn or mule deer movements. Unnecessary fencing should be removed to reduce risks to wildlife, and any new fencing should be wildlife friendly.

Possible impacts in the project area to livestock grazing, including the potential for reduction of Animal Unit Months (AUMs), damages to range improvements, decreased vegetation and forage, possible introduction and spread of noxious weeds, and detrimental social and economic impacts on livestock operators.

Fencing should consider livestock movement and grazing allotments.

The potential visibility of the project from historic trails in the area, especially the contributing segments of the trail corridor along the Sweetwater River in the Jeffrey City vicinity.

Potential impacts to nationally significant historic trails.

Cultural protection of potential Tribal archeological sites.

Compilation of Positive Benefits:

The project is located in a designated industrial development area and access corridor in the current LFO RMP.

The project will result in increased employment opportunities and economic benefits in the region.

Boost local and regional economic development, including increased tax revenues.

Supply clean, affordable source of energy to meet our country's growing energy needs.

Reclamation of the mining area, including historic disturbances.

Reduction of surface radiological levels in the proposed disturbance areas.

Improvement of both ground and surface water, including the reduction of Radium 226 in the pit.

The proponent through the Plan is committed to responsible development.

Reclamation should provide better conditions for wildlife through improved vegetation.

Appendix A

Public Notifications

August 23, 2011: Federal Register Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project, Fremont County, Wyoming

August 23, 2011: News Release: BLM to Initiate EIS for Sheep Mountain Uranium Project

August 26, 2011: Letter: "Dear Interested Party"

amendment with an associated EA. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until September 22, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: *http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.html*. In order to be included in the EA, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 30-day scoping period or 30 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to Castle Rocks and Cedar Fields Land Use Plan Amendment by any of the following methods:

- *Web site: http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.html*
- *E-mail: id_burley_fo_@blm.gov*
- *Fax:* 208–677–6699
- *Mail:* 15 East 200 South, Burley, Idaho 83318

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Burley Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Dennis Thompson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, for further information and/or to have your name added to the Burley BLM's mailing list, at telephone 208–677–6664; address 15 East 200 South, Burley, Idaho 83318; or e-mail *dennis_thompson@blm.gov*. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Field Office, Burley Idaho, intends to prepare an RMP Amendment with an associated EA for the Cassia and Monument RMPs, announces the beginning of the the scoping process, and is seeking public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in Cassia and Power Counties, Idaho and encompasses approximately 1,556 acres of public land. The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: the potential for damage to cultural resources within the American Falls Archeological District at Cedar Fields from rock climbing and other recreational activities; potential adverse affects on Historic Properties at Castle Rocks from rock climbing and other recreational activities; and the impact that closures to certain activities would have on recreational climbing in the area.

At Cedar Fields, ongoing climbing activities have the potential to damage cultural resources located within an Archeological District. In 2010, the BLM prepared an EA to address similar concerns at Castle Rocks. The proposed action within the Castle Rocks EA would have allowed limited climbing and trail construction. However, due to potential adverse cumulative effects of rock climbing activities on Historic Properties (as defined in 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1) and 800.16(l)(1)), a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) could not be reached for the Castle Rocks EA (EA ID–220–2009–EA–3768). The EA was finalized on March 29, 2010, sent out to interested members of the public, and posted to the BLM Idaho Web site. Subsequently, a temporary closure notice was published in the **Federal Register** in November 2010, which closed BLM-managed lands in the Castle Rocks Inter-Agency Recreation Area to climbing, staging, camping, and construction of new trails. This closure will remain in effect until November 16, 2012.

The RMP Amendment and associated EA will consider the permanent designation of no climbing, no staging, no camping, and no construction of new trails on BLM-managed lands at Castle Rocks Inter-Agency Recreation Area and at Cedar Fields. If a closure is necessary to protect Historic Properties at Castle Rocks and cultural resources in the Archeological District at Cedar Fields, the BLM will make a decision about whether to amend the Cassia and Monument RMPs and will address allowable uses of resources, and intensity and limits of use.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria for the Plan Amendments in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. To be most helpful, you should submit comments by the close of the 30-day scoping period or within 30 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: minerals and geology, outdoor recreation, archaeology, wildlife, and soils.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2

Michael Courtney,

Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 2011–21560 Filed 8–22–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–GG–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLWYR05000 L51100000.GN0000. LVEMK11CW630]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project, Fremont County, WY

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended (FLPMA), and in response to a proposal filed by Titan Uranium USA, Inc. (Titan), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lander Field Office, Wyoming, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and by this notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments regarding issues and resource information for the proposed Sheep Mountain Uranium Project (the Project) in Fremont County, Wyoming. The Project is a conventional uranium exploration and development project employing open pit and underground mining methods and using heap leach methods for uranium recovery.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process. The BLM can best consider public input if comments and resource information are submitted within 45 days of publication of this notice. To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposal and project information, the BLM will host public meetings in Lander, Riverton, and Jeffrey City, Wyoming. The BLM

will announce the dates, times, and locations for these meetings at least 15 days prior to each event. Announcements will be made by news release to the news media, individual letter mailings, and posting on the project Web site listed below. Project information and documents including the submitted Plan of Operations also will be available on the Project Web site.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail: Sheep_Mountain_Uranium_EIS_WY@BLM.gov*
- *Mail:* Lander Field Office, Attn: Kristin Yannone, Project Manager, 1335 Main Street, Lander, Wyoming 82520
- *Project Web site: http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html*

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Lander Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristin Yannone, Project Manager, telephone 307–332–8400; address 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520; e-mail *Kristin_Yannone@blm.gov*. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Project is located 8 road miles south of Jeffrey City, Wyoming in Fremont County, Sixth Principal Meridian, Township 28 North, Range 92 West, Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33 in an area of historic uranium mining development, the earliest of which dates back to the 1950s. This area lies 62 road miles southeast of Riverton, Wyoming and 105 road miles west of Casper, Wyoming in the Crooks Gap Mining District.

The project area, which is the same area covered by an existing State of Wyoming mining permit, covers 3,625 surface acres of mixed ownership including 2,313 acres administered by the BLM, 768 acres under State ownership, and 544 acres of private lands. The project area includes 2,836 acres of Federal mineral estate. The BLM Lander Field Office will serve as the lead office for preparing the environmental analysis of the potential impacts of authorizing the surface disturbance for the Project on public lands under the BLM's regulations at 43 CFR part 3809. The potential impacts of constructing and operating a uranium recovery facility within the project boundary will be included in the BLM's analysis. This uranium recovery facility requires a Source Materials License from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to operate in addition to a surface use authorization from the BLM. The BLM's analysis of any potential impacts from granting surface use authorization for the uranium recovery facility are in addition to the environmental analysis conducted by the NRC as part of its permitting process.

On June 16, 2011, Titan submitted its formal Plan of Operations in accordance with the BLM's surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809 to develop a conventional mining and heap leach recovery operation.

The purpose of the Project is to identify mining reserves and extract 1.5 million to 2 million pounds of uranium per year over an anticipated project life of 15–20 years. The Project would use conventional open pit and modified room and pillar underground mining methods to extract the ore. Uranium recovery would be performed on-site using heap leach methods and a processing facility to produce yellowcake (uranium oxide-U_3O_8). Two new declines would be advanced from the surface to access existing underground workings for rehabilitation and further mine development. A series of double-lined pads and ponds would be constructed for the heap-leach facility and a new large building would house the site's processing plant, with a smaller structure for administration and shop facilities.

A total of 466 acres would be disturbed over the life of the mine. This disturbance would consist of 285 acres of new disturbance and 181 acres of existing disturbance which would be re-disturbed. The 466 acres includes 104 acres for the heap leaching and plant operations and 362 acres for mining operations. No new disturbance would be required for access roads.

Both the surface and underground mining may use diesel-powered equipment and blasting to extract and transport the ore to the heap-leach facility and the overburden materials to their temporary and final storage locations. All pit overburden would be temporarily stockpiled on the surface during the initial phases of mining. During later pit mining phases, the overburden and waste material would be stored within previously mined portions of the pit.

After being received at the processing facility, ore would be placed on the double-lined leach pads using a radial belt conveyor. The heap-leach-recovery method applies a sulfuric acid solution (H_2SO_4) through low-flow emitters on top of the heap for extraction of the uranium mineral from the ore. After the solution containing uranium reaches the desired concentration, it would then be processed through either an ion-exchange system or a solvent extraction system. Spent solutions and process-liquid wastes would be managed in double-lined evaporation ponds on-site, no wastes would be discharged from the site. Individual heaps would be reclaimed in-place after the ore has been fully leached, rinsed of leachate, and drained.

The Project activities would include the drilling of exploratory boreholes, construction of open mine pits, excavation of underground mine declines (low angle access tunnels) and underground mine workings using modified room and pillar methods, rehabilitation of existing mine shafts for ventilation, installation of monitoring wells, construction of uranium processing and waste-water treatment facilities, and development of new and improvement of existing access roads. Interim reclamation activities would be performed to minimize the amount of surface disturbance at any one time.

Surface disturbance would be phased over several years, depending on the uranium production rate and the availability of mine construction equipment and personnel. Titan estimates that approximately 40 acres each year would be disturbed, undergo interim reclamation, and subsequently be returned to wildlife habitat to BLM and State of Wyoming reclamation standards. Final surface reclamation would also be required by regulatory agencies and assured by bonds.

At the end of surface mining, all stockpiled overburden would be returned to the pits and the surface regraded with top soil and seeded for revegetation. All underground mining spoils would remain underground and would be reclaimed within the underground workings. Final reclamation plans include placing all pit mine overburden and spoils back in the mine pits, plugging and abandoning all ventilation shafts and access tunnels, removing all ponds and buried piping, and regrading and revegetating the disturbed surface with native plant species approved by the regulatory agencies. After vegetation has been reestablished, the mine surface would be returned to its premining use of livestock grazing and wildlife habitat or any uses consistent with the then-applicable land use plan.

Depending upon the residual radiological hazards present within the millsite restricted area, administrative jurisdiction of the reclaimed heaps may be required to be transferred to the Department of Energy for long-term custodial care until contamination is deemed no longer a threat to public health and safety.

Titan estimates that the Project would employ a mix of full-time personnel and temporary contractors throughout the life of the mine. During the construction of each mine unit, 20 to 30 full-time employees plus 80 contractors would be employed. During mining operations, about 210 full-time employees plus another 40 contractors would be required. It is likely that the majority would live in Riverton and Lander. The Project is projected to provide an economic benefit through a variety of taxes paid to Federal, State, and local governments to include employee income taxes, severance taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes.

The Project is in conformance with the Lander RMP/Final EIS and ROD, 1987. During the preparation of the EIS, interim exploration and development will be subject to development guidelines and decisions made in applicable NEPA documents, including the Lander RMP and any subsequent revisions. The EIS will analyze the environmental consequences of implementing the Project as proposed and alternatives, including a No Action Alternative. Other alternatives that may be considered in detail could include, for example, reclamation schedule adjustments, or perhaps a different pace of development. The Project would not impair lands with wilderness characteristics.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air resources, water resources, wildlife and special status species, vegetative resources, grazing, concerns about risks from selenium, heavy metals and uranium, and long-term post-closure management.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to help fulfill the public involvement process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders who may be interested in or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Donald A. Simpson,

State Director.

[FR Doc. 2011–21563 Filed 8–22–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLMT922200–11–L13100000–FI0000–P; NDM 94247, NDM 94249, and NDM 94263]

Notice of Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Leases NDM 94247, NDM 94249, and NDM 94263

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Per 30 U.S.C. 188(d), Pride Energy Company timely filed a petition for reinstatement of competitive oil and gas leases NDM 94247, NDM 94249, and NDM 94263, Billings County, ND. The lessee paid the required rental accruing from the date of termination.

No leases were issued that affect these lands. The lessee agrees to new lease terms for rentals and royalties, $10 per acre and 16⅔ percent respectively. The lessee paid the $500 administration fee for the reinstatement of the lease and $163 cost for publishing this Notice.

The lessee met the requirements for reinstatement of the lease per Sec. 31 (d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188). We are proposing to reinstate the lease, effective the date of termination subject to:

- The original terms and conditions of the lease;
- The increased rental of $10 per acre; and
- The increased royalty of 16⅔ percent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teri Bakken, Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section, Bureau of Land Management Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59101–4669, 406–896–5091, *Teri_Bakken@blm.gov.*

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

Teri Bakken,

Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section.

[FR Doc. 2011–21568 Filed 8–22–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–DN–P

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

National Park Service

Final Environmental Impact Statement on Nabesna Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C) the National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on Off-Road Vehicle Management in the Nabesna District of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The FEIS evaluates the environmental impacts of a preferred alternative and four action alternatives for management of off-road vehicles in the Nabesna District. The purpose is to consider opportunities for appropriate and reasonable access to wilderness and backcountry recreational activities, which also accommodates subsistence and access to inholdings; while protecting scenic quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and other park resource values. A no action alternative is also evaluated. This notice officially begins the 30-day waiting period before the Record of Decision can be issued.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FEIS will be available for public review at *http://parkplanning.nps.gov/wrst.* Hard copies are available at park headquarters, located at Milepost 106.8 on the Richardson Highway, or may be requested from Bruce Rogers, Project Manager, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, PO Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573.

Sarah
Beckwith/WFO/WY/BLM/DOI
08/23/2011 03:47 PM

To newsdept@wyoming.com, fremontnews@wyoming.com, state@casperstartribune.net, calendar@casperstartribune.net, news@rawlinstimes.com, Pam_Buline@barrasso.senate.gov, Ryan.mcconnaughey@mail.house.gov, Sandy_Tinsley@enzi.senate.gov, vfregoso@k2tv.com, editor@wyofile.com, wbr.mjclark@wyoming.com
cc
bcc Marita Allen/LFO/WY/BLM/DOI
Subject News Release: BLM to initiate EIS for Sheep Mountain Uranium Project

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
Lander Field Office
1335 Main
P.O. Box 589
Lander, WY 82520-0589

August 23, 2011
Contact: Sarah Beckwith, 307-347-5207

BLM to Initiate EIS for Sheep Mountain Uranium Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office is beginning public scoping to identify potential issues to be analyzed in an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed uranium project in Fremont County. The BLM published a notice of intent to prepare the EIS in the Federal Register on Aug. 23, 2011, which opened a 45-day scoping period.

The BLM will prepare an EIS to analyze the project proposed by Titan Uranium USA, Inc. (Titan). Project information and documents will be posted at: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html.

To provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposal and project information, the BLM will host a series of public meetings.

Date and Time	Location
Tuesday, September 13, 2011 5-7 p.m.	Fremont County Library Lander Branch 200 Amoretti Street Lander, WY 82520
Wednesday, September 14, 2011 5-7 p.m.	Fremont County Library Riverton Branch 1330 West Park Avenue Riverton, WY 82501
Thursday, September 15, 2011 5-7 p.m.	Jeffrey City Fire Hall 140 Coyoto Drive Jeffrey City, WY 82310

Titan proposes to conduct conventional uranium exploration and development in the Crooks Gap Mining District, approximately eight miles south of Jeffrey City and 62 miles southeast of Riverton. The Sheep Mountain project area includes 2,313 acres of federal surface (including

2,836 of federal mineral), 768 acres of state and 544 acres of private lands. This is in an area of historic uranium mining development dating back to the 1950s.

Over the anticipated 15-20 year life of the project, the conventional mining and heap leach recovery operation would disturb a total of approximately 666 acres, of which more than 60 percent have been previously disturbed by historic mining.

Public input is valuable early in the process and will enable the BLM to develop a well-informed EIS. Comments should be received by Oct. 6, 2011. Written comments may be emailed to: Sheep_Mountain_Uranium_EIS_WY@BLM.gov or mailed to: BLM Lander Field Office, Attn: Kristin Yannone, 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY, 82520.

For more information, please contact BLM Project Leader Kristin Yannone at 307-332-8400.

The BLM manages over 245 million acres - more land than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM, with a budget of about $1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

- BLM -

Sarah Beckwith
Public Affairs, BLM Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
307.347.5207
307.287.3675

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

In Reply Refer to:
3809
WYW168184

August 26, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform you about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project in Fremont County.

Titan Uranium USA, Inc. (Titan) has proposed a conventional uranium exploration and development project employing traditional open pit and underground mining methods using heap leach methods for uranium recovery. The proposal is to explore for and identify mining reserves, and extract approximately 1.5 million to 2.0 million pounds of uranium per year over an anticipated project life of 15-20 years. The proposal includes a uranium recovery facility within the project boundary, which will use heap leach methods to produce "yellowcake".

The project location is approximately 8 road miles south of Jeffrey City, Wyoming, in Fremont County, T. 28 N., R. 92 W., 6th PM, Secs. 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 33, in an area of historic uranium mining development. The project includes approximately 3,625 surface acres (approximately 5.7 sq. miles) of mixed ownership, including 2,313 acres of federal surface, 768 acres of state surface, and 544 acres of fee lands. Approximately 2,836 acres of federal mineral estate is included in the project area.

The first step in the public scoping process was publication of the Notice of Intent for the project in the Federal Register on August 23, 2011.

Public scoping meetings have been scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.as follows:

Tuesday
September 13, 2011
Fremont County Library
Lander Branch
200 Amoretti Street
Lander, Wyoming

Wednesday
September 14, 2011
Fremont County Library
Riverton Branch
1330 West Park Avenue
Riverton, Wyoming

Thursday
September 15, 2011
Jeffrey City Fire Hall
Jeffrey City, Wyoming

Scoping will continue until October 11, 2011. If you are interested in participating in the scoping process, we request that you respond by supplying your written or emailed comments for concerns about the proposed activity by that date. Please submit your comments to:

Kristin Yannone, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
E-mail: Sheep_Mountain_Uranium_EIS_WY@BLM.gov

The Notice of Intent, Plan of Operations, and other project information is accessible at:
http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html

Your response is important and will be considered in the environmental analysis process. If you do respond, we will consider your comments in the analysis for the project. Please note that public comments submitted for this scoping review, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of the respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentially. If you wish to withhold your name, e-mail address, or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this plainly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

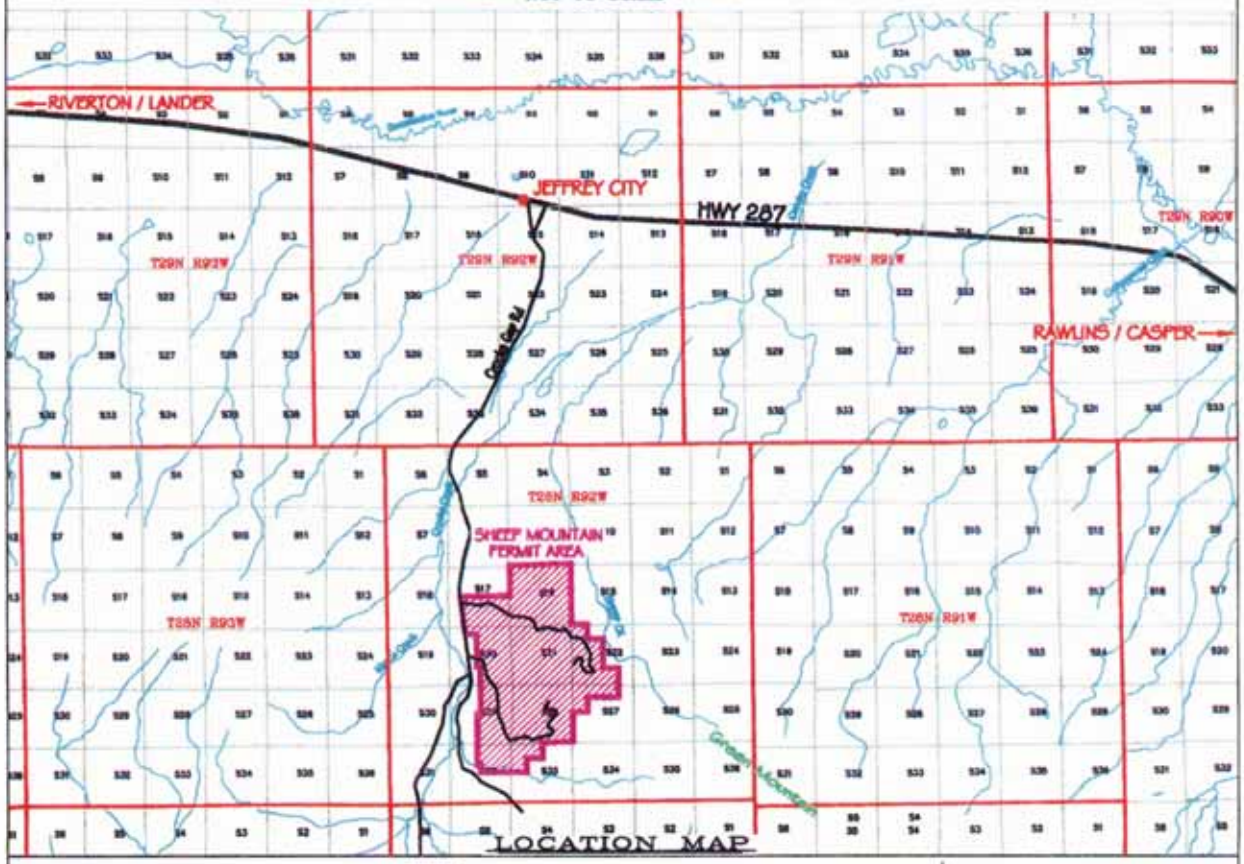
Please address any questions to Kristin Yannone at the above address, or phone (307) 332-8400.

Sincerely,

Richard Vander Voet

Richard Vander Voet
Field Manager

VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE



LOCATION MAP

LEGEND
- T&R LINE
- SECTION LINE
- PERMIT BOUNDARY
- MAJOR ROADWAY
- ACCESS ROADWAY
- WATERWAY

10,000' 0 5,000' 10,000'
1 inch = 10,000'
LOCATION MAP

BRS	PROJECT LOCATION SCALE: 1"=10,000' DRAWN BY: CDS DATE: 5/13/11	SHEEP MOUNTAIN MINES MINE PERMIT 381C	REVISION DATE: 06/15/11

TITAN

Appendix B

Public Scoping Meetings

Sign in Sheets

Comment Forms

BLM Website for the Project

Business Card with LFO Mailing and emailing addresses for comments

September 14, 2011: News Release: BLM and Cooperators Meet for Sheep Mountain Uranium Mining

Sheep Mountain Uranium Project Scoping Meeting
September 13, 2011, Public Library, Lander, Wyoming

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
BLM
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

PLEASE READ: Please be advised that by including your name and address, it will become part of the Sheep Mountain EIS public record.

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Organization	Mailing Address	E-Mail Address	Add to Sheep Mtn. EIS email list?
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐

Sheep Mountain Uranium Project Scoping Meeting
September 14, 2011, Public Library, Riverton, Wyoming

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
BLM
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

PLEASE READ: Please be advised that by including your name and address, it will become part of the Sheep Mountain EIS public record.

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Organization	Mailing Address	E-Mail Address	Add to Sheep Mtn. EIS email list?
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐

Sheep Mountain Uranium Project Scoping Meeting
September 15, 2011, Fire Hall, Jeffrey City, Wyoming

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
BLM
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

PLEASE READ: Please be advised that by including your name and address, it will become part of the Sheep Mountain EIS public record.

PLEASE PRINT

Name	Organization	Mailing Address	E-Mail Address	Add to Sheep Mtn. EIS email list?
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐
		Address: City: State: Zip Code:		Yes ☐ No ☐

Written Comment Sheet

Sheep Mountain Uranium Project

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
BLM
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

We want your comments! If you have any issues, concerns or questions that you would like addressed in the ayalysis of the proposed Sheep Mountain Uranium project, please complete this comment sheet, fold it in on the lines with the return address showing, tape it closed, affix a stamp, and drop it in the mail to us. You may attach additional pages. If you prefer, you may email your comments to **Sheep_Mountain_EIS_WY@blm.gov** (please include "Sheep Mountain Uranium" in the subject line). In your email comments, please include your name and contact information, as below.

Please hand in your completed comment sheet at the open house, or mail, or email it to us by October 11, 2011, to ensure your input is considered.

Please provide your contact information. PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or any other personally identifying information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including PII – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Name:_____ Title_____

Organization:_____

Mailing address:_____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone:_(____)_____ E-mail:_____

Do you want to be added to the Sheep Mountain Uranium EIS email list? Yes ___ No ___

Thank you for your interest and participation!

Fold 2

From:

_____

_____

_____

Affix Stamp

Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
Attn: Kristin Yannone
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Fold 1

Bureau of Land Management

Public Scoping Meeting

Sheep Mountain Uranium Project Environmental Impact Statement

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District

Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

307-332-8400

email comments to:
Sheep_Mountain_EIS_WY@blm.gov

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
Lander Field Office
1335 Main
Lander, WY 82520-2654

September 14, 2011
Contact: Sarah Beckwith, 307-347-5207

BLM and Cooperators Meet for Sheep Mountain Uranium Mining

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lander Field Office and its cooperating agencies will meet to discuss the proposed Sheep Mountain uranium project on September 28 from 1-4 p.m. at the Jeffrey City Fire Hall in Jeffrey City.

Agencies that have been invited to participate include Fremont County Commissioners, local conservation districts, the State of Wyoming and federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency. Members of the public are invited to observe the proceedings and will be given the opportunity to comment and ask questions at the end of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to identify alternative mining methods and strategies for analysis. Titan Uranium USA, Inc. (Titan) proposes to conduct conventional uranium exploration and development in the Crooks Gap Mining District, approximately eight miles south of Jeffrey City and 62 miles southeast of Riverton. The project area includes 2,313 acres of federal surface (including 2,836 of federal mineral), 768 acres of state and 544 acres of private lands. This is in an area of historic uranium mining development dating back to the 1950s.

The public scoping period, which opened on August 23, will remain open through October 6. Comments received will assist the BLM as it prepares an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze Titan's proposed project. Project information and documents may be viewed at: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/lfo/sheepmtn.html.

Comments should be received by Oct. 6, 2011 and may be emailed to: Sheep_Mountain_Uranium_EIS_WY@BLM.gov or mailed to: BLM Lander Field Office, Attn: Kristin Yannone, 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY, 82520.

For more information, please contact BLM Project Leader Kristin Yannone at 307-332-8400.

The BLM manages over 245 million acres – more land than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM, with a budget of about $1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

Appendix C

Public Scoping Written Comment Form and Letters

Written Comment Sheet

Sheep Mountain Uranium Project

Bureau of Land Management Wyoming
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

We want your comments! If you have any issues, concerns or questions that you would like addressed in the ayalysis of the proposed Sheep Mountain Uranium project, please complete this comment sheet, fold it in on the lines with the return address showing, tape it closed, affix a stamp, and drop it in the mail to us. You may attach additional pages. If you prefer, you may email your comments to **Sheep_Mountain_EIS_WY@blm.gov** (please include "Sheep Mountain Uranium" in the subject line). In your email comments, please include your name and contact information, as below.

Please hand in your completed comment sheet at the open house, or mail, or email it to us by October 11, 2011, to ensure your input is considered.

Please consider the importance of cultural & Archeological sites and their relevance to the Tribes.

RECEIVED
SEP 14 2011
LANDER FIELD OFFICE

Please provide your contact information. PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or any other personally identifying information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including PII – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Name: Matthew Noetzelmann Title Environmental Coordinator

Organization: Bureau of Indian Affairs

Mailing address: P.O. Box 158

City, State, Zip Fort Washakie, WY 82514

Phone: (307) 332-3718 ext. 223 E-mail: Matthew.Noetzelmann@bia.gov

Do you want to be added to the Sheep Mountain Uranium EIS email list? Yes X No ___

Thank you for your interest and participation!

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

SEP 13 2011

RECEIVED
SEP 21 2011
LANDER FIELD OFFICE

In Reply Refer To:
ES-61411/WY11CPA0232 and WY11EC0057

Memorandum

To: Field Manager, Lander Field Office, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Lander, Wyoming

From: For Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Field Office, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Subject: Sheep Mountain Uranium Project EIS

Thank you for your letter dated August 26, 2010, received in our office on August 29, regarding an invitation to serve as a cooperating agency in the environmental analysis of the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project (Project) in Fremont County, Wyoming. The Project involves open pit and underground mining methods using heap leach methods for uranium recovery. The heap leach process will involve the use of a sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) solution to extract the uranium from the ore.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) would like to participate as a cooperating agency in the environmental analysis of the Project. The Service can provide recommendations for protective measures for threatened and endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq* and for migratory birds in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), 16 U.S.C. 703, and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), 16 U.S.C. 668. Other fish and wildlife resource recommendations are provided under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., and the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 742a-742j.

As a cooperating agency, the Service can provide technical expertise in environmental contaminants and wildlife toxicology as heap leach mining is known to pose a risk to migratory birds via exposure to hazardous substances such as cyanide and sulfuric acid (Henny et. al. 1994, Hooper et. al. 2007, Stratus Consulting Inc. 2003). Exposure to hazardous substances (elevated metal concentrations and/or sulfuric acid) can occur in open pregnant leach solution pits or ponds, ponding of water on waste rock and leach stockpiles, and tailings impoundments.

Our environmental contaminants staff can provide expertise on preventing or minimizing the risk of migratory bird mortality in tailings ponds and reducing or preventing the exposure of heavy metals, arsenic, and selenium to migratory birds and other wildlife.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Pedro 'Pete' Ramirez, Environmental Contaminants Specialist, of my office at the letterhead address or phone (307) 772-2374, extension 236.

cc: WGFD, Non-game Coordinator, Lander, WY (B. Oakleaf)
WGFD, Statewide Habitat Protection Coordinator, Cheyenne, WY (M. Flanderka)
BLM, Project Manager, Lander, WY (K. Yannone)
BLM, Endangered Species Program Lead, Cheyenne, WY (C. Keefe) (e-mail)

Literature Cited

Henny CJ, RJ Hallock, and EF Hill. 1994. Cyanide and migratory birds at gold mines in Nevada, USA. Ecotoxicology 3: 45-58.

Hooper M, J Isanhart, and S Cox. 2007. Avian consumption and use of contaminated water sources: toxicological assessments of exposure, effects and susceptibility. Report No. RW055-T04-47-A. Institute of Environ. And Human Health, Texas Tech Univ. Lubbock, Texas.

Stratus Consulting Inc. 2003. Preassessment Screen for the Chino, Tyrone, and Morenci Mine Sites, Grant County, New Mexico, and Morenci, Arizona. Prepared for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM. 198 pp.

September 29, 2011

Kristin Yannone, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Senator Eli D. Bebout
Wyoming Senate

Dear Kristin:

I am writing to you in support of the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project in Fremont County proposed by Titan Uranium, Inc. The project will be located within an area designated in the current Resource Management Plan for industrial development and access to it is designated as an industrial access corridor in the RMP.

The Sheep Mountain Project is expected to employ approximately 210 fulltime employees plus approximately 40 contractors. Besides the increased employment benefits, it will boost local and regional economic development as well as increase tax revenues on the local, state, and federal level. This project will also supply a clean affordable source of energy to meet our country's growing energy needs.

Titan Uranium, Inc. is committed to reclaiming the mining site and leaving it cleaner and safer than it is today. Any lands disturbed or re-affected by the operation will be reclaimed to current standards. Titan also has a goal to dramatically lower the surface radiological levels within the majority of the proposed disturbance areas by using principles of ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable).

Titan is committed to improving both ground and surface water conditions by removing Radium 226 from the discharge waters and gradually reduce the Radium 226 levels in the pit. This water will be utilized in the mining and mineral processing operations resulting in zero discharge to surface waters of the state.

By using our public lands as allowed by law, we can continue to extract minerals safely, keep people employed and allow for multiple use without compromising our commitment to responsible development.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Eli D. Bebout

RECEIVED
OCT - 5 2011
LANDER FIELD OFFICE

Committees:

Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources
Minerals, Business and Economic Development

Senate District 26 • P.O. Box 112 • Riverton, WY 82501 • 307.856.0375 • 307.857.6631 Fax • http://legisweb.state.wy.us • senbebout@wyoming.com

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

DEC-11/0000

September 29, 2011

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Memorandum

To: Kristin Yannone, Project Manager, BLM

From: Cheryl Eckhardt, Environmental Compliance Specialist, NPS

Subject: National Park Service comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide National Park Service (NPS) comments on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Notice of Intent to Prepare Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project.

National Historic Trails

The project area is approximately eight miles south of the South Pass High Potential Segment of the Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails. The extent and nature of the project could render it visible from contributing segments of the trail corridor along the Sweetwater River in the vicinity of Jeffrey City. We recommend that BLM's environmental analysis include a viewshed analysis, to include photographs of the project area taken from Key Observation Points on the trail. As the project develops, we would also like to request that this information be shared with NPS to determine if there are potential impacts to nationally significant historic trails.

We appreciate and accept your invitation to be a cooperating agency on this project. Lee Kreutzer will be the lead contact for this role and you may contact her at 801-741-1012 ext. 118 or lee_kreutzer@nps.gov. Thank you for considering our comments.

cc:
NPS, WASO-EQD
Lee Kreutzer, NPS
Robert Stewart, DOI

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

Phone: (307) 777-4600 Fax: (307) 777-4699

Web site: http://gf.state.wy.us

GOVERNOR
MATTHEW H. MEAD

DIRECTOR
SCOTT TALBOTT

COMMISSIONERS
FRED LINDZEY – President
AARON CLARK – Vice President
MIKE HEALY
RICHARD KLOUDA
T. CARRIE LITTLE
ED MIGNERY
CHARLES PRICE

October 6, 2011

WER 12068
Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
Environmental Impact Statement
Sheep Mountain Uranium Project
Titan Uraniun USA
Fremont County

Kristin Yannone
Project Manager
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Ms. Yannone:

The staff of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project submitted by Titan Uraniun USA in Fremont County. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

Terrestrial Considerations:

On Sept. 28, our Regional field staff attended the cooperating agency field trip and meeting to review the proposed Sheep Mountain Uranium Mine. This is a re-entry of previously mined areas, and results in little new surface disturbance. Some previous disturbances have already been reclaimed and should provide better conditions for wildlife once reclamation areas become adequately vegetated.

The proposed mine activity and processing will not impact crucial winter ranges for big game or core area for sage grouse. However, fencing will be installed in some locations that may impact pronghorn or mule deer movements. We recommend that any new or existing fencing should be 3-wire (2 barbed, bottom smooth) BLM standard fence type to facilitate migrating animals. Unnecessary fencing should be removed to reduce wildlife hazards, except in the Restricted Area where chain link fence is needed to preclude human or animal access to radio-active areas. Most mule deer observations made during early winter classification flights are on the eastern slope of Sheep Mountain, thus proposed mine activities should have minimal footprint, if any, on this slope. If activities are avoided during November and December on this slope, most migrating mule deer, pronghorn and elk will be unaffected.

To better understand current conditions, we recommend sage grouse lek searches should be conducted within 2 miles of the Sheep Mountain mine to determine if any unknown leks occur. If leks are found, we recommend appropriate stipulations for non-core sage grouse areas will need to be applied.

Any radioactive zones or open water pits should be outfitted with bird deterrent devices to preclude impacts to avian species.

Aquatic Considerations:

Western Nuclear Pond is located along the periphery of the project area: R92W, T28N, S32 (UTM: 266,664E; 4,693,097N; Z13; NAD27). This is a 10-acre pond managed as a basic yield fishery by annually stocking brook trout and rainbow trout. The pond is located on private land; however, the mine owner has allowed unrestricted public access since 1990. No formal access agreement has ever been made. Fishing opportunities are limited in this portion of the region and we would like to encourage the current land owners to continue allowing fishermen access. If they are interested and willing, we would be happy to discuss the creation of a formal agreement or easement to insure continued access for the future.

If the project proponent follows the BLM Gold Book and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Storm Water Prevention Plan to prevent erosion and sediment transportation off the site, we have no other specific aquatic concerns relative to the proposal to reopen this uranium mine.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kevin Johnson, Lander Region Fisheries Supervisor, at 307-332-7723 Ext. 227.

Sincerely,

John Emmerich
Deputy Director

JE/mf/gb

cc: USFWS
Kevin Johnson, Lander Region

RECEIVED
OCT - 7 2011
LANDER FIELD
OFFICE

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Matthew H. Mead, *Governor*
Jason Fearneyhough, *Director*
2219 Carey Ave. • Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-7321 • Fax: (307) 777-6593
Web: agriculture.wy.gov • Email: wda1@state.wy.u

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

October 6, 2011

Ms. Kristin Yannone
Bureau of Land Management
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Ms. Yannone:

Following are the Wyoming department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Scoping Notice for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Sheep Mountain Uranium Project by the Lander Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Our comments are specific to our mission: dedication to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this proposed EIS affects our agriculture industry, our natural resources, and the welfare of our citizens, it's important you continue to inform us of proposed actions and decisions and continue to provide the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

This project will impact grazing permittees, agriculture producers, landowners, and other citizens, as well as our natural resources, both in and near this 3625-acre project area. For these reasons, we are making the following comments.

Following are specific individual effects upon livestock grazing to analyze in the EIS: impacts on Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and pastures for grazing, increased off- and on-road traffic, increased number of speeding vehicles, construction of new roads and modifications to existing roads, increased number of vehicles causing death or impairments of livestock, cut fences, opened gates, damaged range improvements, decreased palatability of vegetation and forage from road dust and development activities, potentially unsuccessful reclamation of disturbed areas, introduction and spread of noxious weeds, and other detrimental social and economic impacts on livestock operators and livestock management operations.

We strongly encourage BLM staff and commercial operators work closely and consistently with affected grazing permittees regarding this project. We support BLM's intent to seek and address the concerns and recommendations of these stewards of habitat, forage, and rangeland health. Moreover, it is imperative that BLM officials continuously inform all livestock grazing permittees who are directly or indirectly affected of the issues, decisions, and resulting actions regarding this proposal.

The WDA specifically requests the EIS consider reduced fencing in the project area to maintain AUMs and maintain livestock movement in the grazing allotment. This requires an inventory of current fencing in the

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services
BOARD MEMBERS
Jana Ginter, *District 1* • Jim Hodder, *District 2* • Shaun Sims, *District 3* • John Moore, *District 4* • Alison Lass, *District 5*
Bryan Brost, *District 6* • Jim Price, Jr., *District 7*
YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS
Patrick Zimmerer, Southeast • Dalin Winters, Northwest • John Hansen, Southwest • Bridget Williams, Northeast

project area and an evaluation of the minimum amount of fencing necessary for livestock health and safety. In addition, the WDA requests an inventory of range improvement projects in or near the project area and identification of the impacts uranium operations will have on the ability of livestock to use existing and proposed range improvements. Range improvements are crucial in the grazing allotment and must be maintained and improved.

We support compensatory mitigation discussions between Titan Uranium USA, Inc. (Titan) and livestock permittees to lessen the burden, livestock stress, and economic impacts to grazing permittees due to the proposed development. Such mitigation strategies and costs may include, but are not limited to, the following: movement of livestock to an open allotment or pasture, monitoring of impacts, construction of water and range improvements on either public or private land, purchase or lease of additional grazing land to replace lands lost to grazing, and reimbursement to producers for loss of AUMs and pastures.

Many environmental impact studies are deficient in identifying or analyzing social and economic impacts imposed by proposed energy developments. We strongly recommend this EIS includes a full and thorough social and economic impact analysis. Grazing on public lands represents a vital economic value to agriculture producers and local communities; we recommend the analysis includes impacts upon livestock grazing in and adjacent to the planning area. The cumulative impacts of energy developments upon livestock grazing may jeopardize the livelihoods of grazing permittees. The loss or impaired ability of livestock grazing operations must be evaluated in the EIS.

Timely and successful reclamation and mitigation are needed and should be required. Reclamation and mitigation requirements and the consequences for Titan failing to accomplish this reclamation and mitigation should be clearly stated.

Congressional mandates, federal statutes, and implementing regulations call for multiple use, and should be an integral part of the assessments. The EIS should evaluate the impact of this project upon the intent expressed in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to manage public lands in a manner that will provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals. The impacts upon food and habitat for fish and wildlife are usually well documented in NEPA documents. The consequences of this project upon food and habitat for domestic animals deserve the same degree of study and documentation. Grazing is an essential tool to achieve desired environmental objectives in the project area, including obtaining positive effects upon food and habitat for both wildlife and livestock. The EIS needs to include 1) these positive effects of livestock grazing upon the environment and as a tool to achieve environmental objectives and 2) the impacts of this project on limiting the ability of livestock grazing to achieve these positive effects.

Peer-reviewed science should underlie decisions that are made. The EIS must identify the science supporting decisions and discussions regarding this project.

Decisions in the proposed plan should allow BLM officials, grazing permittees and Titan the opportunity to work cooperatively. Flexibility to make the best site-specific, case-by-case decisions that are in the best interests of the affected resources and citizens throughout the life of this plan should also be addressed.

In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scope of the proposed actions. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and look forward to hearing about and being involved in proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,

Jason Fearneyhough

Jason Fearneyhough
Director

JF/jc

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
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Kristin Yannone, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

RE: Scoping comments for the Bureau of Land Management, Sheep Mountain Uranium Project, Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Yannone:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 has reviewed the Bureau Land Management (BLM) Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project. Consistent with our authority under the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2)(C) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act 42 U.S.C. Section 7609, we offer the following comments as you proceed with the Draft EIS.

Project Description

Titan Uranium USA Inc. (Titan) has proposed a conventional uranium exploration and development project employing traditional open pit and underground mining methods using heap leach methods for uranium recovery. The proposal is to explore and identify mining reserves and to extract approximately 1.5 million to 2.0 million pounds of uranium per year over an anticipated project life of 15-20 years. The proposal includes a uranium recovery facility within the project boundary, which will use heap leach methods to produce "yellowcake." The Sheep Mountain Uranium Project is located approximately eight road miles south of Jeffry City, Wyoming in Freemont County.

Key Issues Identified by the EPA

The EPA has identified the following key issues that we believe must be clearly addressed in the EIS so that potential impacts to public health and the environment can be fully evaluated and disclosed. They are: (1) development of reasonable alternatives to heap leaching; (2) associated cumulative impacts; (3) impacts on water resources, (4) reclamation of abandoned mines as a potential mitigation measure (5) air quality impacts and (6) protection of human health.

(1) Development of reasonable alternatives to heap leaching for uranium extraction

The EPA recommends that the BLM rigorously explore and objectively evaluate alternatives to heap leaching for uranium recovery in the Draft EIS to including:

- an action alternative that would utilize insitu uranium recovery technology,
- an action alternative that would include returning the heap leach pile to a lined impoundment in the pit and
- an action alternative that would entail transporting uranium ore to an offsite mill for extraction.

The EPA commends BLM for including environmental mitigation measures in their preferred action alternative at the end of surface mining. These measures include placing all of the stockpiled overburden and spoil back in the mine pits, plugging and abandoning all ventilation shafts and access tunnels, removing all ponds and buried piping and revegetating the disturbed surface with native plant species. Although these measures may reduce the environmental impact from mining, we are concerned with the potential for irreversible environmental impacts by conducting heap leaching to extract uranium and encapsulating the heap pile in place.

In situ Uranium Recovery. The use of insitu uranium recovery has been prevalent in recent years. This type of mining and extraction method offers the potential for fewer environmental impacts because the waste rock and ore are not managed on the surface and there is a small surface footprint. We encourage BLM to evaluate this alternative if the geological conditions are appropriate for this type of mining.

Return Spent Heap to Mine Pits. The preferred action alternative involves reclaiming the heap leach pile in-place after the ore has been fully leached, rinsed of leachate, and drained. We encourage BLM to consider an action alternative that would return the material in the heap to lined impoundments in the mine pits. Under this alternative, the heap piles would be managed subgrade in the mine pits, overburden and mine spoils would also be placed in the pits, then covered with top soil, recontoured to resemble previous hydrological conditions and revegetated.

Conventional Mining, Transport of Ore and Offsite Milling. We also suggest that the EIS include an action alternative that would employ conventional mining methods and transport the uranium ore to an offsite mill for processing. Under this alternative, there would be no heap pile to manage and monitor at the mining facility. After closure, the site would be reclaimed and no post closure monitoring would be required. A complete analysis of this alternative would have to include the connected action of the millsite where the milled tailings from this ore would be managed. Most conventional offsite mills would leach the ore in tanks and neutralize the tailings before placing them in a millsite impoundment.

(2) Cumulative impacts associated with uranium mining must be considered by accounting for all past, present and future uranium mining and milling in the region

The cumulative impact analysis provides the context for understanding the magnitude of the impacts of the alternatives by analyzing the impacts of other past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects or actions and then considering those cumulative impacts in their entirety. It also identifies the appropriate type and level of mitigation required to offset a project's contribution to these impacts. While they may be insignificant individually, cumulative impacts from one or more sources accumulate over time can

result in the degradation of important resources. EPA recommends BLM consider the guidance provided by CEQ in the handbook entitled "Considering Cumulative Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act" (CEQ 1997). CEQ's handbook offers the most comprehensive and useful information to date on practical methods for addressing cumulative effects in NEPA documents.

We suggest that BLM evaluate and disclose cumulative impacts to:

- Crooks Creek from inflows of surface water and groundwater,
- human health from radiation exposure and
- aquatic organisms from metals, radionuclides and total dissolved solids.

Surface water and groundwater discharges to Crooks Creek from the Sheep Mountain Uranium Project represent only a portion of the metal and radionuclide loading to the stream. We are concerned that although each individual mine's contribution to the stream may not be significant, the total load from all of the mines in the area may cause significant degradation of this resource. To assess cumulative impacts from land management activities, we suggest BLM consider using either the WEPP (Water Erosion Prediction Project) model or the WATSED model. These models are available on the United States Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station webpage:
http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/awae_home.shtml in the "Products, Models and Tools" tab.

We also suggest that BLM evaluate and disclose cumulative impacts to human health from exposure to radiation. There is a potential for nearby residents to be exposed to radiation from radon gas venting from mines and from ingestion of radioactive decay products in the food chain. EPA has established permissible residential radon exposure limits under 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart B (National Emission Standards for Radon Emissions from Underground Uranium Mines). These limits are based on exposure to radon from one mine and do not consider radon exposure to the public from multiple mines. Deposition of radionuclide containing dust may impact nearby watersheds or enter into the food chain as a result of uptake into vegetation and subsequent ingestion by cattle and game animals. Based on the potential cumulative exposure to radiation from these pathways, we encourage BLM to conduct a cumulative impact analysis for impact to public health from radiation exposure.

To estimate the cumulative impacts to human health from radon gas exposure, the BLM may wish to use the EPA's COMPLY-R program for uranium mine radon discharges. Each mine could be modeled as a single vent when inputting the data. The COMPLY-R program can be accessed from the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/radiation/neshaps/subpartb. For windblown dust from the waste rock and ore piles, the Department of Energy's (DOE's) MILDOS software could be used. MILDOS software is used by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to estimate radiological doses and risks from uranium mining and milling. All of the waste rock and ore piles could be combined and treated as one tailings pile in the program. The web address for the DOE program is
http://web.ead.anl.gov/mildos/miltitle.html?CFID=57962693&CFTOKEN=
Radon and particulate emissions from associated milling activity can be found as estimates in the mill's radioactive material license application or as measured values in reports submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

(3) Surface water and groundwater are valuable resources, thus it is important to evaluate and mitigate associated impacts

The EPA considers water quality and water supply, including drinking water and irrigation water, to be among the most critical issues of any NEPA analysis in areas used for uranium mining. Mining and heap leaching have the potential to significantly impact water resources if the potential impacts are not fully evaluated and the appropriate mitigation measures implemented.

Given the EPA's concerns regarding water quality in the proposed development area, we recommend that the BLM fully evaluate impacts to water resources by including the following in the EIS:

- A thorough characterization of existing groundwater and surface water resources within the project area, including:
  - Maps of groundwater and surface water resources in the area to be developed.
  - Baseline data on the condition and quality of groundwater and surface water.
  - Information on the quantity and location of all aquifers, recharge zones and all source water protection areas,
  - An identification and description of all surface water, including ephemeral streams, that could be affected by the project alternatives; and where applicable, acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters.
  - An identification and description of the connectivity of any spring and groundwater to surface water.
- Disclosure of which waters may be impacted, the nature of potential impacts, and specific pollutants likely to impact those waters.
- Surface water and groundwater use, including the location and source identification of agricultural, domestic and public water supply wells or intakes. The protection of domestic and agricultural water sources is a particular concern where potential mining surround or include populated places and areas used for agriculture.

The project operations plan states that heap leaching will be performed by adding sulfuric acid to the heap pile to strip out the uranium. In this type of operation, there is concern that the heap pile will continue to generate acid after the heap has been spent if the spent material contains significant amounts of pyritic material. Because of this concern, we suggest that the EIS identify the mineral constituents of the heap material and disclose the potential for acid generation after leaching activities have ceased.

Ephemeral streams and their alluvial aquifers, that provide recharge, are an important part of the overall hydrology of the watershed in an arid system such as the Crooks Gap – Sheep Mountain Area. We recommend that the EIS discuss the importance of ephemeral streams in this hydrologic system. If ephemeral channels are physically connected with the active streams, potential exists to move contaminants such as radionuclides and toxic metals to the active stream during flow events. Radionuclides and toxic metals in alluvial groundwater could also be discharged to surface water in this type of hydrologic environment. For this reason, the EPA recommends that the EIS characterize the hydrological connection between ephemeral springs and groundwater and disclose any impacts to affected water resources.

Another of the EPA's primary concerns is ensuring the protection of public drinking water supplies

and/or their source water areas that exist in the project area. To address this concern, the EPA recommends the EIS identify existing or potential impacts from past, present or future uranium mining activities on local drinking water wells. Disturbances in the subsurface from mining can provide a preferential pathway in groundwater for toxic substances to impact water supplies. In performing this analysis, we recommend that the EIS identify existing and potential drinking water sources, characterize the movement of radionuclides and other toxic metals in groundwater and identify the impact on groundwater resources and public and private drinking water.

Of particular concern are the impacts to groundwater from "wet mines" where groundwater intersects the zones where rock is excavated. According to the Operations Plan for the project, some of the ore in the project area lies in areas below the groundwater surface. We recommend the EIS consider a mitigation measure that would require that all vent shafts be grouted where they intercept aquifers so that they do not provide a conduit for groundwater flow.

Further, since the project has the potential to cause or contribute to erosion of soils and subsequent sediment loading to nearby surface waters, we recommend the NEPA analysis evaluate construction, design and operation practices that will be used to minimize erosion and controlling stormwater runoff from the site. A listing of potential BMPs that may be considered for preventing erosion and controlling stormwater runoff at this site can be found on EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/sector_g_metalmining.pdf. We suggest that BLM consider the BMPs identified in this list, and specify those BMPs that would be suitable and likely implemented at the Sheep Mountain Mine site. We also recommend that the BLM disclose in the EIS those permits that would contain provisions to prevent erosion and control stormwater. Titan will be required to obtain construction and industrial National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permits from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

(4) Reclamation of abandoned mines as a potential mitigation measure

EPA suggests that the BLM include reclaiming abandoned mines within the project development site as a potential mitigation measure. Abandoned mines in this area contribute to surface water quality degradation and pose a public health risk. According to BLM's plan of operations, several uranium mines have operated in the area dating back to the 1950s. Disturbances from these historical mines may contribute to exceedances of Wyoming DEQ Chapter VIII Class III standards in Crooks Creek. Water quality samples collected by Titan of impounded water from previously disturbed land from past mining show impaired water quality. Further, recreational users entering old mines can be exposed to extremely high levels of radon.

(5) Evaluate and mitigate air quality degradation

The NEPA analysis for this project will need to carefully evaluate the proposed project's potential impact on air quality. To this end, EPA recommends that the Draft EIS disclose and analyze the project's direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, which may include the following:

- Criteria pollutants under the NAAQS;
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increments;
- Ambient concentrations of hazardous air pollutants; and
- Air quality-related values (AQRVs) in Class I areas (e.g., visibility, deposition).

The EPA recommends an emissions inventory be completed as the first step in the NEPA air quality analysis. After the emissions inventory is completed, the appropriate level of analysis, including air quality modeling if appropriate, can be determined. Mitigation, especially dust control, may be an important consideration for this project. EPA appreciates BLM's invitation to participate on an Air Quality Stakeholder Workgroup. We look forward to working with BLM and the WDEQ to develop an air quality analysis appropriate for the size and emissions from this project.

(6) Evaluate and mitigate risks to human health after mine closure

To ensure that the final cap of the mine site is protective of public health after the closure, we encourage the BLM to evaluate impacts to vegetation from the uptake of radon daughters generated from radon migrating into the cap and plant uptake of these radioactive decay daughters (primarily Pb-210). Cattle and game animals grazing on the cap can result in a completed public exposure pathway via meat ingestion if the cap is not of sufficient thickness. Runs using RESRAD, a DOE program used to model radiation exposure RESRAD, indicate that a one-meter cover may be sufficient to minimize the plant/meat uptake pathway. This depth is also consistent with Superfund cleanup actions and ensures that all radioactive daughter products, not just gamma radiation, are contained.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the scoping process for the Sheep Mountain Project EIS. As a formal cooperating agency with BLM on this EIS, EPA hopes to work closely with BLM on preparation of the EIS and to assist with the development of an analysis which will adequately address potential environmental impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures. The EPA has a regional mining team that can provide practical solutions to environmental issues presented by conventional uranium mining operations on federal lands. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact me at (303) 312-6925.

Sincerely,

Suzanne J. Bohan
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

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October 10, 2011

Kristin Yannone, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

Re: Titan Uranium, Inc., Proposed Sheep Mountain Project

Dear Kristin:

As the Co-Chair of the Wyoming Legislative Task Force on Nuclear Energy Production I am keenly interested in the Titan Uranium, Inc. Sheep Mountain Project in Fremont County and write this letter in support of that project.

The Task Force is engaged in proposing legislation to enhance the development of nuclear power generation and related uranium processing and mining facilities in our state. The legislature has given the Task Force the responsibility to explore ways to facilitate the supply nuclear energy to our state and to the country.

The proposed mining operations by Titan Uranium are in an area designated in the RMP for development within an industrial corridor. The project will have a significant economic impact on Fremont County and the surrounding region with a payroll and employment of over 200 workers and 40 contractors which is very much needed at this time of economic downturn. Tax revenues to local, state and federal government will be substantial.

Titan Uranium has committed to being a responsible steward of the land that will be mined. Reclamation plans call for meeting the required standards in all areas of disturbance and ground and surface water utilization will be carefully monitored.

Responsible mineral extraction on our public lands is vital to our country's future and our desire to become energy independent. The policy for development of natural resources through multiple uses of our public lands has existed for over a century and the Titan Uranium Project certainly meets that objective.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Sheep Mountain Project.

Sincerely,

Senator Stan Cooper
Co-Chair, Task Force on Nuclear Energy Production