

NRC Coordination with Federal Agencies on Uranium Recovery Applications

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Guidance on Interactions with other Agencies

- NRC guidance
- NEPA
- Recent Interactions
 - Targeted scoping
 - BLM
 - EPA
 - Forest Service
 - WYDEQ
 - Native American Tribes

How NRC Interacts with other Federal Agencies

- Scoping
- Consultation letters
- Telecons
- Informal information Sharing
- Cooperating agencies
 - MOUs
 - MOAs/PAs

NRC/BLM MOU



- **BACKGROUND**

Concurrent NEPA reviews conducted by each agency on same project discovered during visits to BLM field offices in September 2008 to discuss the GEIS

- **NEED**

Numerous proposed new uranium recovery facilities located on BLM-administered land

Purposes of the MOU

- Provide an efficient means of fulfilling NEPA requirements
- Encourage routine communication
- Advance notice of agency actions
- Provide framework for exchange of data
- Establish roles and responsibilities

Status of MOU

- Draft MOU sent to BLM on January 26 2009
- Revised draft MOU submitted to BLM by NRC on May 20, 2009
- Meeting held June 10 to discuss feasibility of issuing one NEPA document
- Telecon scheduled June 29 to discuss final comments
- Letters to BLM field offices

Progress

- Letters to BLM field offices
- Share future agency actions
- Routine communication with field offices
- MOU in final stages
 - Telecon June 30 2009

NRC/BLM MOU CONTENTS

- PURPOSE
- LEGAL AUTHORITIES
- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- COORDINATION
 - Advance notice of uranium recovery license applications/Plans of Operation
 - Exchange data and information
 - Steering Committee
 - Lead/Cooperating Agency Status
 - NEPA Implementation and Review Process
 - Schedules and Interagency Communication

Challenges

- Different timelines
- Different purpose and need/alternatives
- Agency resources
- Resource areas reviewed
- Different agency roles
- Different procedures for completing documents

Expected Outcome

- Increase communication
- Advance notice of expected actions
- Sharing of early drafts of NEPA documents
- Efficiencies in NEPA process
- Continue to explore possibility of only one NEPA document

Next Steps

- Finalize BLM/NRC MOU
- Protocol established to delineate NRC roles and responsibilities regarding interacting with agencies
- Continue to be proactive in engaging other federal agencies

Takeaways

- NRC is committed to open communication with other agencies.
- The impacts of differences in the roles and responsibilities, and timelines of agencies must be recognized
- NRC and BLM remain committed to coordination and completion of an MOU
- Information will continue to be shared where possible to promote efficiencies