

Meeting Notes

Agency: WY DEQ

Location: Lander, WY

Date: Wed, Jan 14, 2008

Time: 13:00

Attendees:

Amy Boyle, WYDEQ
Melissa Bautz, WYDEQ
Carrie Dobey, WYG&F
Stephanie Davis, Environet
Alan Bjornsen, NRC

Purpose:

To inquire whether the State has concerns regarding the development of the Lost Creek site as an ISL. The DEQ had submitted a list of questions and concerns to the UR-Energy last summer (2008), but did they have anything more?

Discussion:

- DEQ is ready to submit an additional 200 questions (RAIs) to UR-Energy – they submitted 45 last summer
- As a means to regulate drilling, if surface disturbance is less than 5 acres, the DEQ issues a Drilling Notification – similar to BLM's Notice of Intent
- If the area of disturbance >5 acres, a License to Explore is issued – similar to the BLM's Plan of Operation
- A bond is carried by both the DEQ and BLM, but DEQ holds the bond
- For the bond to be released, a minimum of 2 years must pass to determine whether the vegetation has taken hold on the disturbed land
- Regarding Sage Grouse:
 - There are several leks that involve the Lost Creek site
 - W/in ¼ mi – no activity
 - W/in 2 mi – limited activity
- DEQ feels that solid waste management was not addressed adequately in the application
 - Where would the waste go?
 - How would waste be handled?
 - The various waste streams need to be categorized
- Groundwater Concerns:
 - A more regional approach is needed
 - Draw-down needs to define the area of influence
 - Water rights issues need to be defined w/in a 3-mi radius
 - A new requirement of the DEQ is to have the first mine unit characterized before it begins operation
 - More cross-sections are needed to define the site
 - DEQ wants a better definition (characterization) of the HJ formation

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- DEQ wants more monitoring wells in the HJ
- DEQ wants more monitoring above and below the target aquifer (HJ)
- DEQ's def of an aquifer - = or > 5 gpm (qual not considered)
- Lost Creek needs to look at all the sand layers below the site
- Confining shales:
 - How confining are they?
 - They appear to 'pinch out' in areas
- Historic drill holes:
 - Lost Creek has 100s of them
 - Many are not documented
 - DEQ wants them to be documented
 - Many holes have not been plugged properly
 - DEQ wants UR-Energy to locate and plug all historic drill holes
- DEQ wants UR-Energy to develop a water balance for all its phases – operation and restoration
- DEQ is concerned that the water from the groundwater 'sweep' be treated before re-injected or disposed
- DEQ wants 12 mo of stability monitoring after the uranium has been removed, then yearly, after that
- G&F is concerned with overhead electric power lines
 - Say they would not approve
 - Want electric lines to be buried, id brought in fro off-site
- Top soil stripping is also an issue
- DEQ permitting:
 - LQD permits mining (also includes solid waste)
 - WQD permits stormwater, septic, deep well injection, NPDES discharges, designates aquifer classifications
 - AQD issues a general permit for fugitive dust, as well as emission sources from vehicles and equipment

Action Items:

- DEQ WQD:
 - Will make a determination on the class of aquifer the HJ layer is
 - Will determine the appropriate monitoring well distribution