# Status of the Uranium Recovery Program

Andrew Persinko, Deputy Director
Bill von Till, Branch Chief
Division of Waste Management and
Environmental Protection

May 1, 2013



# **Status of Licensing Actions**



- Accomplishments Since Previous Workshop
  - Issued 1 license renewal
  - Issued 1 expansion amendment
  - Completed SERs for 1 license renewal, and 2 new licenses
  - Completed 2 draft SEISs
- Current Activities
  - Reviewing 9 licensing actions
    - 3 expansions, 3 new licenses, and 3 license renewals
- Future Activities
  - Workload increasing
  - Potential for a maximum of 3 hearings to start in FY 13

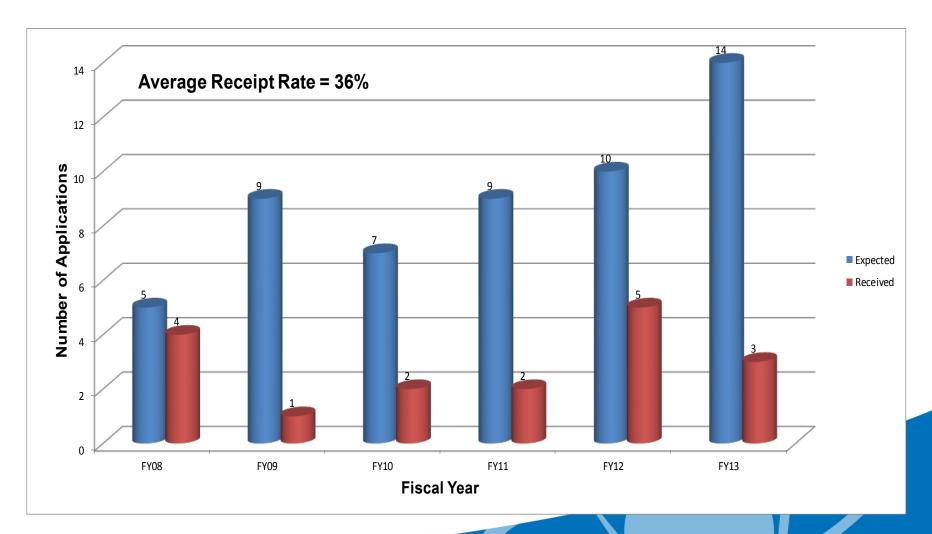
#### **Priorities**



- Priorities- Safety
  - Licensed sites
  - New facility/expansion reviews
  - guidance
- Perform safety and environmental reviews in parallel
- Major licensing reviews performed in order of acceptance
- License renewals same priority as licensed site actions

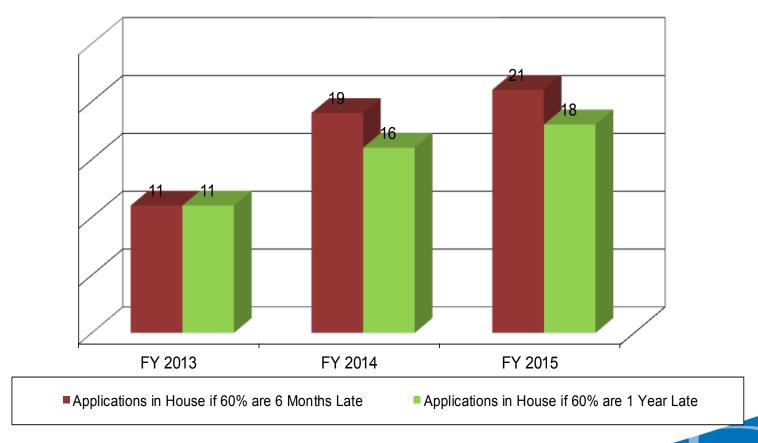
### **Historic Application Receipt Rates**





# Projections for Workload Scenarios





Applications in House includes items being worked on and anticipated letters of intent.

#### **Letters of Intent**



- Project name, location and submission date
- Site work completed and future work planned
- Signed by corporate officer
- Industry history ~40% submission rate in any given year
- Early and accurate letters of intent

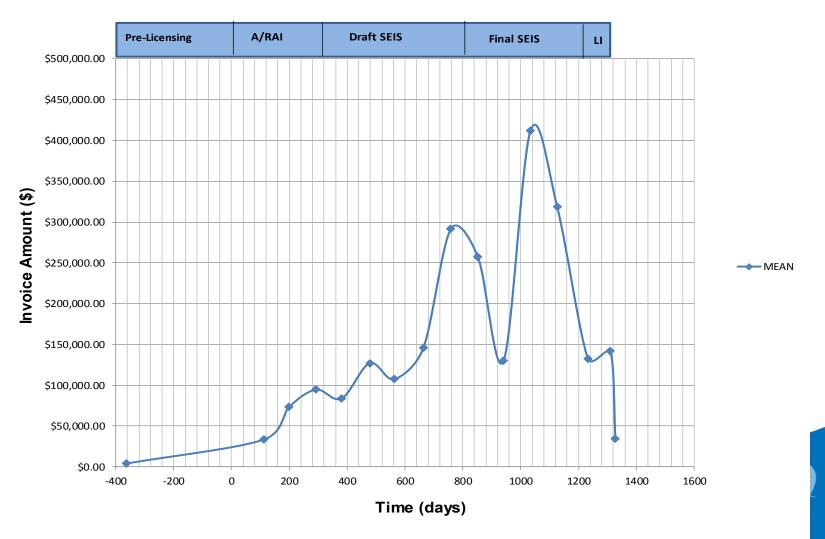
# **Budget**



- Based on letters of intent
- Formulation starts 2 years in advance
- Assumes the 40% submission history
- Staff capacity 8 to 10 major licensing actions at any given time
- FY15 major licensing load all carryover except 1 renewal application
- Licensed site actions increasing

# **Update Cost Information**





#### **Section 106 Consultation**



- Completed 4 Section 106 reviews since March 2010
- 8 reviews currently under way
- Plan to complete 3 reviews in FY 13 and 5 in FY 14
- Improvements
  - Proactive coordination with State Agencies and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
  - Increased Tribal outreach
  - Earlier engagement of stakeholders
  - Using experts to support our review
  - Developing uranium recovery guidance
  - Open site approach

# **Summary**



- Significant staff accomplishments since previous NMA
- More resources required to manage existing licensees in the future
- Letters of intent important, but more accuracy is needed.
- Section 106 Consultation process is improving



# **Uranium Recovery Safety Staff**



#### <u>Uranium Recovery Licensing Branch</u>

- Bill von Till, Chief
- Stephen J. Cohen, Team Leader
- Ron Linton, Sr. Hydrogeologist/PM
- Ron Burrows, Health Physicist/PM
- Elise Striz, Hydrogeologist
- Douglas Mandeville, Geotechnical Engineer/PM
- Betty Garrett, Licensing Assistant
- James Webb, Health Physicist/PM
- Tom Lancaster, Hydrogeologist/PM
- John Saxton, Hydrogeologist/PM

#### Other Division Staff

- John Buckley, PM
- Chad Glenn, PM
- Varughese Kurian, Health Physicist
- Tanya Oxenberg, Health Physicist
- Gary Comfort, PM

#### **Environmental Review Staff**



#### Kevin Hsueh, Chief

- Alan Bjornsen, PM
- Jill Caverly, Sr. PM
- Diana Diaz-Toro, PM
- John Fringer, PM
- Nathan Goodman, PM
- Kellee Jamerson, PM
- Stephen Lemont, Sr. PM
- Asimios Malliakos, PM

- Johari Moore, PM
- Daniel Mussatti, PM
- James Park, PM
- Mirabelle Shoemaker, PM
- Jean Trefethen, PM
- Ashley Waldron, PM
- Antoinette Walker-Smith, Licensing Assistant
- Haimanot Yilma, PM



# **Project Managers - Projects**



Project	Safety PM	Environmental PM
AUC Reno Creek	Chad Glenn	Jill Caverly
Cameco North Trend	Ron Burrows	Nate Goodman
Cameco Crow Butte LR	Ron Burrows	Nate Goodman
Cameco Smith Ranch LR	Doug Mandeville	James Park
Cameco Marsland	Tom Lancaster	Mirabelle Shoemaker
HRI Crownpoint LR	Ron Linton	James Park
Powertech Dewey-Burdock	Ron Burrows	Haimanot Yilma
Strata Ross	John Saxton	Johari Moore
Uranium One Ludeman	John Buckley	Kellee Jamerson

# **Project Managers - Licenses**



Cameco Crow Butte –

Cameco Smith Ranch -

**Hydro Resources Crownpoint - Ron Linton** 

**Uranium One Willow Creek -**

**Lost Creek -**

**Uranium One Moore Ranch -**

**Uranerz Nichols Ranch -**

Kennecott Sweetwater -

**Ron Burrows** 

**Doug Mandeville** 

Ron Linton

John Saxton

**Doug Mandeville** 

**Ron Linton** 

James Webb

# **Major Licensing Actions**



License Renewals	Expansions	New Facilities
Cameco – Crow Butte Resources <sup>1</sup>	Cameco – Crow Butte North Trend <sup>2</sup>	Powertech – Dewey Burdock <sup>1,3</sup>
Uranium One – Willow Creek (completed)	Uranium One – Ludeman²	Strata – Ross <sup>1,3</sup>
Cameco – Smith Ranch	Cameco – Crow Butte, Marsland	AUC - Reno Creek
Hydro Resources, Inc., - Crownpoint	Lost Creek – Dryer Expansion <sup>4</sup>	

#### Notes:

- 1 issued final safety evaluation report
- 2 issued request for additional information
- 3 issued draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
- 4 issued final Environmental Assessment

# **Ongoing Licensing Actions**



#### **New Additional Operating Sites since 2010**

- Willow Creek
- Lost Creek construction
- Nichols Ranch construction

#### **Operating Site Licensing Actions**

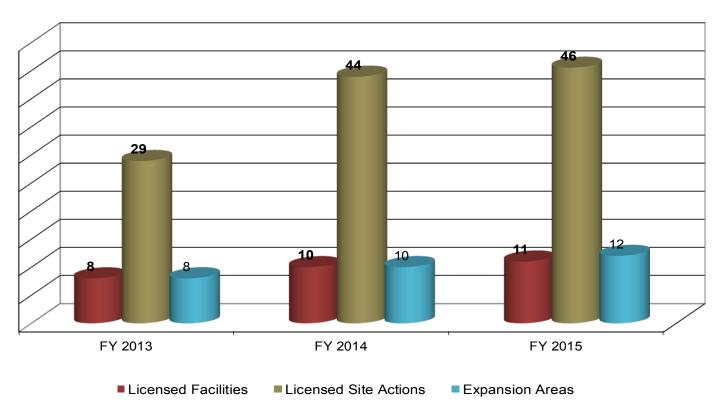
- License renewals
- Expansions
- Other actions

#### **Oversight and Inspection**

- Priority
- Increasing

#### **Future Workload Details**





This chart assumes a 2.5 year review period for renewal, new facility, and expansion reviews.

Licensed site actions are highly variable in scope and duration.



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Major Uranium Recovery Licensing Applications ment Company Site Under Consideration Design **Estimated Application Date** Date State Status Letter of (1) Accepted Intent Fiscal 2007 Applications Cameco (Crow Butte Resources) ISR - Expansion Received June 2007 08/28/2007 NE Draft License Issued None North Trend Fiscal 2009 Applications ISR - New Powertech Uranium Corporation Dewey Burdock Resubmitted 8/09 Oct-09 SD SER Completed - 3/13 01/26/07 Fiscal 2011 Applications Strata Energy, Inc. Ross ISR - New Rec. January 2011 Jun-11 WY SER Completed - 2/13 01/08/10 Fiscal 2012 Applications WY Uranium One Ludeman ISR - Expansion Rec. December 2011 May-12 RAIs Issued 11/28/11 Lost Creek ISR, LLC Lost Creek Dryer-Expansion Rec. January 2012 Mar-12 WY Complete in 4/13 01/06/10 Cameco (Crow Butte Resources) Marsland ISR - Expansion Rec. June 2012 Oct-12 NE Tech Review Ongoing 11/09/10 Fiscal 2013 Applications AUCIIC Reno Creek ISR - New Rec. 10/05/2012 WY Acc. Review started 3/13 11/03/10 Lost Creek ISR. LLC WY 03/29/12 Lost Creek KM-Horizon Exp. Apr-13 Uranium One Jab and Antelope ISR - New Rec. 07/08, Resume FY 13 WY Rev. Curtailed App.Reg. 05/31/07 Rec. 08/10. Resubmit FY13 Cameco (Crow Butte Resources) Three Crow ISR - Expansion NE Application Withdrawn 01/11/10 TBD\*\* Uranium One Allemand-Ross ISR-Expansion WY 10/08/10 Fiscal 2014 Applications Lost Creek ISR, LLC LC East ISR-Expansion Oct-13 WY 06/27/12 Eneray Fuels Sheep Mountain Heap Leach - New Dec-13 WY Pre-Sub Audit 10/11 01/30/13 Strathmore Minerals Corporation Gas Hills Heap Leach - New Dec-13 WY 01/23/13 Strathmore Minerals Corporation Dec-13 NM Pre-Sub Audit 12/12 Pena Ranch Conv. - New 01/17/13 Oregon Energy, LLC Aurora Uranium Proiect Conv. - New Dec-13 OR 04/03/12 Uranerz Energy Corp. Jane Dough ISR-Expansion Dec-13 WY 04/15/13 UR-Energy Corp. Shirley Basin Project ISR-Expansion May-14 WY 08/30/12 Cameco (Power Resources, Inc.) FY 14 10/30/12 Ruby Ranch ISR - Expansion WY Uranium Resources, Inc. Juan Tafoya Conv. - New FY 14 NM 03/02/12 Rio Grande Resources Mt. Taylor Conv. - New FY14 NM 10/29/12 The Bootheel Project LLC Bootheel ISR-New (resin) FY14 WY 08/09/10 WY UR-Energy Corp. FY14 11/01/10 Lost Soldier ISR - Expansion Other Major Licensing Actions Cameco (Crow Butte Resources) Crawford, NE ISR - Lic. Renew. Received Dec. 2007 SER Completed - 12/12 NE Cameco (Power Resources, Inc.) Smith Ranch/Highland WY Tech Review Ongoing ISR - Lic. Renew. Feb-12 Jul-12 Hvdro Resources, Inc. Crownpoint ISR - Lic. Renew. Received 3/19/13 NM Acceptance Review WY Kennecott Uranium Sweetwater Mill Conv - Lic. Renew. Oct-14 WY 10/18/12 Rare Element Resources **Bull Hill Project** Source Material May-13 Cameco (Power Resources, Inc.) Ruth ISR - Ops Plan FY 2022 WY 09/09/10 No. of New Facility Applications = 11 11 No. of Restart/Expansion Applications = No. of Other Actions 6 Total No. of Licensing Actions\*\* 28

<sup>\*\*</sup> Total does not include any projects where the application date is listed as TBD.

<sup>(1)</sup> Light red shading indicates a site that contains land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.



# **Guidance Updates**

- Evaluations of Uranium Recovery facility Surveys of Radon and Radon Progeny in Air and Demonstrations of Compliance with 10 CFR 20.1301
- Standard Review Plan for Conventional Mills and Heap Leach Facilities
- Revision of NUREG-1569 On Hold Pending EPA Rulemaking on 40 CFR 192
- Groundwater Data Consolidation
- Regulatory Guide 3.51
- Regulatory Guide 3.59
- Regulatory Guide 4.14



# Guidance Updates (cont'd.)

- Regulatory Guide 8.30
- Consolidating/Updating UR Decommissioning Guidance
  - Guidance for Conventional, Heap Leach, and ISR Facilities
  - Envisioned as a new Volume 4 to NUREG-1757





# QUESTIONS?