Message

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa [Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/7/2017 6:03:38 PM
To: Chin, Lucita [Chin.Lucita@epa.gov]; Shea, Valois [Shea.Valois@epa.gov]; Minter, Douglas [Minter.Douglas@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Inquiry re: DB: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

Will do. Standing by!

From: Chin, Lucita
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 11:02 AM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa <Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov>; Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inquiry re: DB: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

Give me a chance to review. I'll let you know.

Lucita Chin
Associate Regional Counsel
Environmental Protection Agency
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202
Office: (303) 312-7832

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; Chin, Lucita <Chin.Lucita@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inquiry re: DB: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

These look great Valois. If everyone is okay with them I'll send up to HQ for approval.

Lisa

From: Shea, Valois
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 10:45 AM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa <Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov>; Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; Chin, Lucita <Chin.Lucita@epa.gov>
Cc: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Inquiry re: DB: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

Please review my answers below.

Valois

Valois Shea

U.S. EPA Region 8
MailCode: 8WP-SUI
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Phone: (303) 312-6276
Fax: (303) 312-6741
Email: shea.valois@epa.gov

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 4:55 PM
To: Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; Chin, Lucita <Chin.Lucita@epa.gov>; Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>
Cc: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inquiry re: DB: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

I realize some of these answers can be found in the documentation on line. We can provide him with some pointers (page number or specific links to pages) as a courtesy. I will send him a note now to consult the webpage in the interim.

From: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 4:47 PM
To: Minter, Douglas <Minter.Douglas@epa.gov>; Chin, Lucita <Chin.Lucita@epa.gov>; Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>
Cc: Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Subject: Inquiry re: DB: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

We need to decide which of these fall under the category of just providing factual information since that is the parameter for responding during a comment period.

Ex. 5 AC/DP

Let me know your thoughts!

Lisa

From: John Taylor [mailto:John.Taylor@lee.net]
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2017 4:35 PM
To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa <Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: Questions regarding permitting of uranium mining in southern Black Hills... John D. Taylor, Editor The Hot Springs Star

Lisa:
I'm the editor of a weekly newspaper – we don't have many dailies in small town rural South Dakota – in the heart of this uranium mining project and I have some questions that need answered about what EPA intends and what impact public comments will have on this.

Could you please provide some answers? My deadline for this is Thursday at 12 noon. Email works fine, or a phone call. (But please know I am out of the office Tuesday morning until about 12 noon (MST) and Wednesday from about 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Below are my questions:

1. "EPA has issued two draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permits…" What will this permit Azarga/PowerTech to do – actually start the in situ process?

Ex. 5 AC/DP

2. "EPA will accept public comments on the draft permits and a proposed aquifer exemption associated with the project through May 19, 2017" – Depending on the answer to No. 1 question, what will the public comments be used for? What is their purpose?

Ex. 5 AC/DP

3. "…waste injected under the Class V permit must be treated prior to being injected and must meet all radioactive waste and hazardous waste standards." Treated how? What are the standards for this?

Ex. 5 AC/DP

4. "Monitoring of the underground sources of drinking water surrounding the Class III injection wellfields will take place before, during and after ISR operations to ensure the underground sources of drinking water are protected." Who will do this monitoring? How often? With what process? How will the safety of water be safeguarded? Is the focus only drinking water – what about water that might be used for livestock?

Ex. 5 AC/DP

5. The aquifer exemption … explain this please?

Ex. 5 AC/DP

6. "…this approval would exempt the uranium-bearing portions of the Inyan Kara Group aquifers from protection under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Such an exemption must be in place before ISR activities within these aquifers can occur." Is EPA going to write off the Inyan Kara aquifer at this location and allow Azarga/PowerTech to dump waste into this?

Ex. 5 AC/DP

7. "EPA has been consulting and coordinating with several interested Tribes to identify the potential effects of the proposed project on traditional cultural places, historic and sacred sites. EPA will continue to consult and coordinate with Tribes as necessary throughout the public comment period concerning these proposed permitting actions." Explain this, please. Can you summarize any objections the tribes have made so far? (from the EJ document so this info has already been released to the public)

Ex. 5 AC/DP

8. "EPA's final permit decision will be based on an evaluation of comments received and a determination of whether underground sources of drinking water are protected." If you're issuing permits, this sounds like a done deal already and the process is simply leaping through the federal hurdles for this. Is that so? If not, please explain how public comments will be used.

Ex. 5 AC/DP

Sincerely yours,

John D. Taylor, Editor

The Hot Springs Star

605-745-4170

John.taylor@lee.net