Message

From: Kimball, Lori (Chip) K [lkimball@blm.gov]
Sent: 9/14/2020 7:39:46 PM
To: Lees, Michael [Michael.Lees@state.sd.us]
CC: Ames, John R [jrames@blm.gov]; Hudson, Roberta [Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us]; Holm, Eric [Eric.Holm@state.sd.us]; Brian.Walsh@state.sd.us; Robinson, Valois [Robinson.Valois@epa.gov]; Woodfield, M C [mwoodfield@blm.gov]; Arave, Nathaniel L [narave@blm.gov]; kim.mcintosh@state.sd.us
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

That will work great. I will send out an invite with the call in information.

Chip

From: Lees, Michael <Michael.Lees@state.sd.us>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Kimball, Lori (Chip) K <lkimball@blm.gov>
Cc: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>; Hudson, Roberta <Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us>; Holm, Eric <Eric.Holm@state.sd.us>; Walsh, Brian <Brian.Walsh@state.sd.us>; Robinson, Valois <Robinson.Valois@epa.gov>; Woodfield, M C <mwoodfield@blm.gov>; Arave, Nathaniel L <narave@blm.gov>; McIntosh, Kim <Kim.McIntosh@state.sd.us>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

Hi, Chip:

2:30 CDT on Thursday October 1 works for us. Please propose an alternate date and time if that doesn't work on your end.

Thanks.

Mike

From: Kimball, Lori (Chip) K <lkimball@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Lees, Michael <Michael.Lees@state.sd.us>
Cc: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>; Hudson, Roberta <Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us>; Holm, Eric <Eric.Holm@state.sd.us>; Walsh, Brian <Brian.Walsh@state.sd.us>; Robinson, Valois <Robinson.Valois@epa.gov>; Woodfield, M C <mwoodfield@blm.gov>; Arave, Nathaniel L <narave@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXT] [EXTERNAL] RE: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

Hi Mike. When might your group be available for a call? I would like to discuss the State's concerns and where you are in your permitting process. I am working with the EPA on consultation so Valois Robinson would like to join us as well.

Thanks.

Chip

From: Lees, Michael <Michael.Lees@state.sd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Kimball, Lori (Chip) K <lkimball@blm.gov>

Cc: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>; Hudson, Roberta <Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us>; Holm, Eric <Eric.Holm@state.sd.us>; Walsh, Brian <Brian.Walsh@state.sd.us>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

Chip:

Roberta Hudson and Eric Holm would definitely be on the call, and probably Brian Walsh or someone from his team for our Ground Water Quality Program.

Thanks!

Mike

From: Kimball, Lori (Chip) K <lkimball@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Lees, Michael <Michael.Lees@state.sd.us>
Cc: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>; Hudson, Roberta <Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us>; Holm, Eric <Eric.Holm@state.sd.us>
Subject: RE: [EXT] [EXTERNAL] RE: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

Mike,

Thank you for the letter and the comments. We will need to discuss the State's concerns further, but I will likely wait until the comment period has ended and I can get the team together.

Could you provide me a list of folks from the State who should be on such a call?

Thank you again.

Chip

From: Lees, Michael <Michael.Lees@state.sd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Kimball, Lori (Chip) K <lkimball@blm.gov>
Cc: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>; Hudson, Roberta <Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us>; Holm, Eric <Eric.Holm@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

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Attn: Chip Kimball, 309 Bonanza Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Chip:

Earlier today Secretary Roberts mailed comments to your attention—the attached file is a copy of the letter he mailed.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment!

Mike Lees – Administrator
SD DENR
Minerals and Mining Program
523 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-4201

From: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Holm, Eric <Eric.Holm@state.sd.us>
Subject: Fw: [EXT] BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

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From: Ames, John R <jrames@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Robinson, Valois <Robinson.Valois@epa.gov>; eric.holm@state <eric.holm@state>; Burrows, Ronald <Ronald.Burrows@nrc.gov>; heather.gepford@nrc.gov <heather.gepford@nrc.gov>
Cc: Arave, Nathaniel L <narave@blm.gov>
Subject: Fw: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

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From: Jacobsen, Mark E <mjacobse@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:24 AM
Subject: BLM NEWS: South Dakota Field Office seeks comments on uranium project plan

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management - Interior Region 5
Montana/Dakotas
South Dakota Field Office **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release – July 28, 2020
Contact; Mark Jacobsen: mjacobse@blm.gov

The Bureau of Land Management seeks public comments on uranium project plan of operations

(BELLE FOURCHE, S.D.) – The Bureau of Land Management South Dakota Field Office is seeking public comments on the complete Plan of Operations (Plan) for the Dewey Burdock In-Situ Uranium Project located in Fall River and Custer counties on BLM-administered lands.

An environmental impact statement was prepared on the proposed Plan in 2014 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In the years since, the project developers have worked to secure the necessary permits to operate the mine from the NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Because the mine is located on BLM-managed lands, the agency must also approve a Plan of Operations for the project.

"Under the Trump Administration's leadership, we've made it a priority to streamline review and approval of uranium and other critical minerals development projects. Doing so will create and sustain good jobs, promote U.S. technological innovation, and reduce our nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the critical mineral supply chain," said BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley.

The BLM is making the complete Plan of Operations available for a 30-day public comment period before issuing its final approval decision. The deadline for comments is Aug. 26.

Azarga Uranium Corp., owner of the Dewey Burdock Project, filed the Plan on approximately 13 surface acres of the BLM lands for the purpose of in-situ uranium mining. The Plan outlines the details for the company's mining activities, from initial construction of facilities, to the mine's closure and the final site reclamation.

Uranium is one of 35 Critical Minerals identified by the U.S. Geological Survey. These minerals include rare earth elements, as well as other metals such as lithium, indium, tellurium, gallium, and platinum group elements. They are used for things like batteries and LCD screens in computers, alloys for the aerospace and defense industries, integrated circuits and optical devices, medical imaging and research, and hundreds of other applications. Without them, the nation's economy would grind to a halt, and the technological edge maintained by the Armed Forces and Intelligence community would erode.

Recognizing the importance of critical minerals, in 2017 President Trump issued Executive Order 13817, *A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals*, which directed the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to lead the development of a government-wide strategy to protect and expand access by U.S. manufacturers and suppliers to necessary critical minerals. In turn, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretary's Order 3359 *Critical Mineral Independence and Security* and led development of the final critical minerals list in May 2018. A Preliminary Economic Assessment for the project foresees total production of 14.2 million pounds of uranium over 16 years, with an average annual production of one million pounds annually.

More information, relevant documents, and a location for submitting comments are available on the BLM e-Planning project website at https://eplanning.blm.gov. Search: *"Dewey-Burdock Project."*

Comments may also be mailed to BLM South Dakota Field Office, Attn: Chip Kimball, 309 Bonanza Street, Belle Fourche, SD 57717.

Those who provide comments are advised that before including their address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, they should be aware that the entire comment, --including the personally identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While those commenting can ask in their comments to withhold personal identifying information from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that they will be able to do so.

– BLM –