SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

1.0 Background

Strata submitted the application for a new source material license to the NRC for ISR facilities by a letter dated January 4, 2011. A notice of receipt and availability of the license application, including the Environmental Report (ER), and opportunity to request a hearing was published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2011 (76 FR 41308). One request for hearing was received on October 27, 2011.

The NRC is preparing a draft SEIS that will tier off the ISR GEIS (NUREG-1910). While NRC’s Part 51 regulations do not require scoping for SEISs, the NRC staff is preparing to place ads in newspapers serving communities near the proposed site, requesting information and comments from the public regarding the proposed action. Also, NRC staff met with, and gathered information from, Federal, State, and local agencies as well as with public interest groups in conjunction with a visit to the proposed site. NRC staff may also use relevant information gathered during scoping for the GEIS to define the scope of the SEIS. In preparing the SEIS, the NRC staff is consulting with Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Park Service, and the Crook County Natural Resource District in preparing the SEIS. The Bureau of Land Management is a cooperating agency with the NRC, under the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on November 30, 2009.

The NRC has begun evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed ISR facility in parallel with the review of the license application. This environmental evaluation will be documented in draft and final SEISs in accordance with NEPA and NRC’s implementing regulations contained in 10 CFR part 51. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 51.20(b)(8) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), or supplement to an EIS, for the issuance of a new license to possess and use source material for uranium milling. The ISR GEIS and the site-specific SEIS fulfill this regulatory requirement. The purpose of the present notice is to inform the public that the NRC staff will prepare a site-specific supplement to the ISR GEIS as part of the review of the application.

2.0 Ross ISR Facilities

The proposed ISR facilities, if licensed, would include a central processing plant and appurtenant features, accompanying wellfields, and wastewater retention (storage) ponds. The ISR process involves the dissolution of the water-soluble uranium from the mineralized host sandstone rock by peroxidants (oxygen or hydrogen peroxide) and chemical compounds (sodium...
bicarbonate) through a series of injection wells. The uranium-rich solution is transferred from production wells to either the central processing plant or satellite facility for uranium concentration using ion exchange columns. Final processing is conducted in the central processing plant to produce yellowcake, which would be sold to offsite facilities for further processing and eventual use as commercial fuel for use in nuclear power reactors.

3.0 Alternatives To Be Evaluated

No-Action—The no-action alternative would be to deny the license application. Under this alternative, the NRC would not issue the license. This serves as a baseline for comparison.

Proposed action—The proposed Federal action is to issue a license to use or process source material at the proposed ISR facilities. The license review process analyzes the construction, operation, and decommissioning of ISR facilities and restoration of the aquifer from which the uranium is being extracted. The ISR facilities would be located in Crook County, Wyoming, 32 miles northeast of Gillette, Wyoming and 30 miles northwest of Sundance, Wyoming. The applicant would be issued an NRC license under the provisions of 10 CFR part 40. Other alternatives not listed here may be identified through the environmental review process.

4.0 Environmental Impact Areas To Be Analyzed

The following areas have been tentatively identified for analysis in the SEIS:

- Land Use: Plans, policies, and controls;
- Transportation: Transportation modes, routes, quantities, and risk estimates;
- Geology and Soils: Physical geography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics;
- Water Resources: Surface and groundwater hydrology, water use and quality, and the potential for degradation;
- Ecology: Wetlands, aquatic, terrestrial, economically and recreationally important species, threatened and endangered species;
- Air Quality: Meteorological conditions, ambient background, pollutant sources, and the potential for degradation;
- Noise: Ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors;
- Historical and Cultural Resources: Historical, archaeological, and traditional cultural resources;
- Visual and Scenic Resources: Landscape characteristics, manmade features and viewed;
- Socioeconomics: Demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, and education;
- Environmental Justice: Potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations;
- Public and Occupational Health: Potential public and occupational consequences from construction, routine operation, transportation, and credible accident scenarios (including natural events);
- Waste Management: Types of wastes expected to be generated, handled, stored, and disposed of; and
- Cumulative Effects: Impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at and near the site(s).

This list is not intended to be all inclusive, nor is it a predetermination of potential environmental impacts.

5.0 The NEPA Process

The SEIS for the Ross Uranium Recovery Project will be prepared pursuant to the NRC’s NEPA Regulations at 10 CFR part 51. The NRC will continue its environmental review of the application and as soon as practicable, the NRC and its contractor will prepare and publish a draft SEIS. The NRC currently plans to have a 45-day public comment period for the draft SEIS. Availability of the draft SEIS and the dates of the public comment period will be announced in the Federal Register and the NRC Web site: http://www.nrc.gov. The final SEIS will include responses to public comments received on the draft SEIS.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of November, 2011.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Gregory Suber,
Acting Deputy Director, Environmental Protection and Performance Assessment Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs.

[FR Doc. 2011–29566 Filed 11–15–11; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. A2012–43; Order No. 960]

Post Office Closing

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document informs the public that an appeal of the closing of the Andover, Illinois post office has been filed. It identifies preliminary steps and provides a procedural schedule. Publication of this document will allow the Postal Service, petitioners, and others to take appropriate action.

DATES: November 14, 2011: Administrative record due (from Postal Service); December 5, 2011, 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time: Deadline for notices to intervene. See the Procedural Schedule in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for other dates of interest.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically by accessing the “Filing Online” link in the banner at the top of the Commission’s Web site (http://www.prc.gov) or by directly accessing the Commission’s Filing Online system at https://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/filing-online/login.aspx. Commenters who cannot submit their views electronically should contact the person identified in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section as the source for case-related information for advice on alternatives to electronic filing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, at (202) 789–6820 (case-related information) or DocketAdmins@prc.gov (electronic filing assistance).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(d), on October 28, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service’s determination to close the Andover post office in Andover, Illinois. The petition for review was filed by Ron Peterson (Petitioner) and is postmarked October 20, 2011. The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 404(d) and establishes Docket No. A2012–43 to consider Petitioner’s appeal. If Petitioner would like to further explain his position with supplemental information or facts, Petitioner may either file a Participant Statement on PRCA Form 61 or file a brief with the Commission no later than December 2, 2011.

Categories of issues apparently raised. Petitioner contends that (1) There were factual errors contained in the Final Determination; and (2) the Postal Service failed to provide substantial evidence in support of the determination (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5)(c)).

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above, or that the