



Final Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

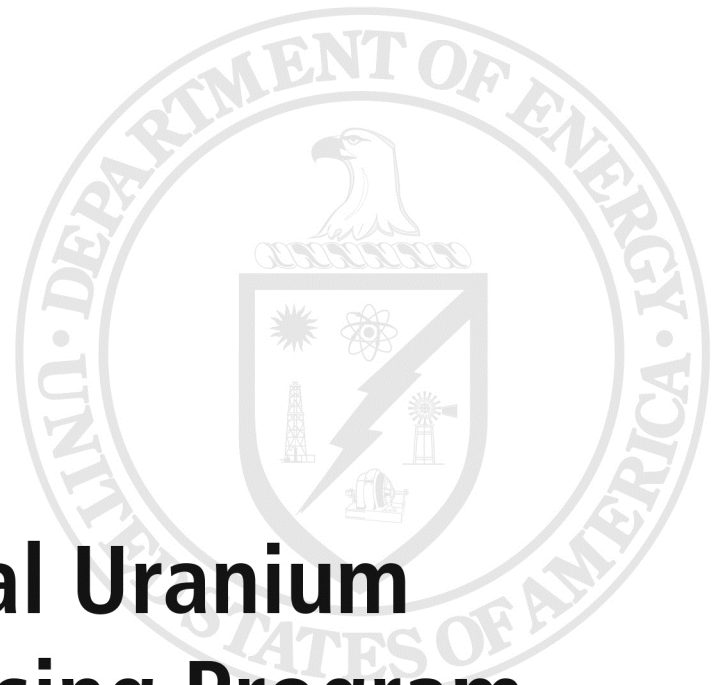
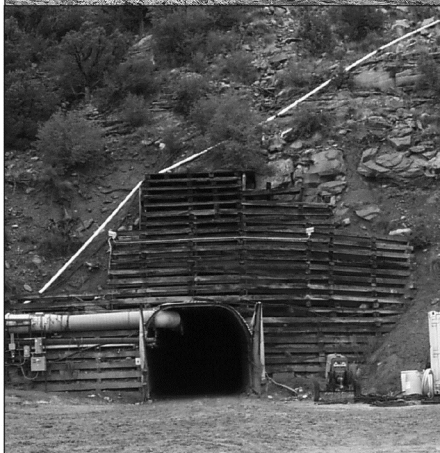
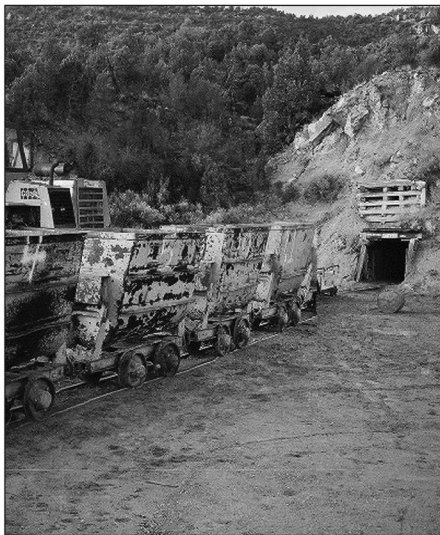
Volume 3:
Appendix I: Comment Response Document

DOE/EIS-0472
March 2014



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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APPENDIX I:**COMMENT RESPONSE DOCUMENT**

This Comment Response Document (CRD) is organized into four main sections as follows. (1) Section I.1 describes the public comment process for the *Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (Draft ULP PEIS), the procedure for managing and responding to the comments received for the Draft ULP PEIS, and a list of the dates and locations of the public hearings (see Table I.1-1). (2) Section I.2 summarizes the changes made to the ULP PEIS. (3) Section I.3 summarizes the topics of general interest associated with the PEIS as gleaned from the public comments received. (4) Section I.4 provides a compilation of all comment documents received and responses to the comments identified within each comment document.

I.1 PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft ULP PEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on March 15, 2013 (78 FR 16483), and this began a 60-day public comment period that was to end on May 16, 2013. This comment period was later extended to May 31, 2013 (78 FR 23926), and it was subsequently re-opened on June 3, 2013 (78 FR 33090), with a closing date of July 1, 2013. The public comment period, including the extension and the re-opening, lasted 109 days. All comments received on the Draft ULP PEIS were considered in the preparation of the ULP PEIS and are presented in Section I.4.

An important part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process involves giving the public the opportunity to provide input and comments on a Draft PEIS for consideration in the preparation of a Final PEIS. DOE issued the Draft ULP PEIS for review and comment by other Federal agencies, states, American Indian tribal governments, local governments, and the public. DOE distributed copies to those organizations and government officials known to have an interest in the PEIS and to those organizations and individuals who requested a copy. Copies were also made available on the project web site (<http://www.ulpeis.anl.gov/>), the DOE NEPA web site (<http://energy.gov/nepa/>), and in regional DOE public document reading rooms and public libraries. Announcements indicating the availability of the Draft ULP PEIS and the dates and times of the public hearings were published in local newspapers.

Each of the public hearings started with an open house that lasted about half an hour, with posters that explained the NEPA process and the alternatives and evaluations presented in the ULP PEIS. Copies of the Summary document and presentation were also made available to the public. Subject matter experts were on hand to answer any questions the public may have had as they viewed the poster display.

After the open house, DOE gave an overview of the Draft ULP PEIS, and attendees were given an opportunity to provide oral and written comments. Each oral comment presentation,

1 recorded by a court reporter as part of the hearing transcript, was considered as a comment
 2 document. Written comments submitted by individuals during the hearings were likewise
 3 considered to be comment documents. The transcripts for the four hearings are posted on the
 4 project web site.

5
 6 DOE received a total of 258 comment documents, which accounted for approximately
 7 1,200 individual comments. Of the 258 comment records received, 18 were from organizations
 8 or Federal or state agencies and 240 were from private citizens. Written comments were received
 9 via letter, email, or through submission of a comment form provided at the public hearings or on
 10 the project web site. Oral comments are included in transcripts documenting each of the public
 11 hearings held on the Draft ULP PEIS (as listed in Table I.1-1).

12
 13 Comment documents received were assigned a distinct identifier consisting of an
 14 alphabet prefix and a number. Comment documents that were received as letters were assigned a
 15 prefix of “L”; e-mails received an “E”; web comments got a “W”; and oral comments at public
 16 meetings were given a “T.” All comment documents received on the Draft ULP PEIS were
 17 reviewed, and individual comments identified from each comment document were given a
 18 distinct comment number. For example, if the comment letter that was assigned the number 1
 19 had three comments identified, then the comments were given identifiers of L1-1, L1-2, and
 20 L1-3, respectively.

21
 22 Comments were reviewed and responses were prepared by policy experts, technical
 23 subject matter experts, and NEPA experts. Comments were evaluated to determine whether
 24 additional or corrected information was needed and whether additional or revised text would
 25 clarify the information being conveyed. Sections that were revised to provide additional
 26 information or clarification are indicated in the responses.

27 28 29 **I.2 SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE DRAFT PEIS**

30
 31 This PEIS contains two new appendices including this one. Appendix E presents the
 32 biological assessment (BA) prepared for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 33 (USFWS) and the biological opinion (BO) that was issued by the USFWS. Appendix E had
 34 previously presented species accounts for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and it
 35

36
 37 **TABLE I.1-1 Draft ULP PEIS Public**
 38 **Hearing Locations in Colorado, Dates, and**
 39 **Attendance**

Location	Date	Attendance
Grand Junction	April 22, 2013	52
Montrose	April 23, 2013	40
Telluride	April 24, 2013	54
Naturita	April 25, 2013	22

1 is now material that is also discussed in the BA or Section 4.3.6.4. Appendix I (this appendix)
2 presents the comment response document or CRD. This appendix contains a discussion of the
3 public participation process conducted for the Draft ULP PEIS, a discussion on topics of interest
4 gleaned from the public comments received on the Draft ULP PEIS, and the comments received
5 with the corresponding responses.

6
7 In addition to the two new appendices, other changes were made to the ULP PEIS as a
8 result of comments received to clarify, add to, or correct the information that was presented in
9 the Draft ULP PEIS. Revisions made to the Draft ULP PEIS to prepare this Final ULP PEIS are
10 identified with a line on the right margin of the pages. However, this same approach
11 (i.e., providing lines on the right margin of the pages) to indicate new material was not done for
12 the two new appendices; instead, the reader is informed of this in the introductory text for the
13 given appendices. Below is a summary of the other changes made from the Draft to Final PEIS:

- 14
15 • In response to comments, additional site-specific information about past
16 operations on the lease tracts was added (see Section 1.3)
- 17
18 • Text describing the Purpose and Need for agency action (see Section 1.4) was
19 clarified.
- 20
21 • Additional site-specific information available after the draft was issued was
22 incorporated into the analysis (see Section 4.3.5). The source documents were
23 cited and added to the reference list (see Chapter 8). No substantive changes
24 to the PEIS analysis resulted from the additional site-specific information.
- 25
26 • Text was added to require, at a minimum, an Environmental Assessment to be
27 completed before approval of any mining plan (see Section 1.7). This revision
28 was made in response to public concerns that a National Environmental Policy
29 Act (NEPA) review with public participation would not be completed as
30 future mine plans are being considered.
- 31
32 • The Final Biological Assessment and the Biological Opinion for the
33 Endangered Species Act or ESA consultation were completed after the Draft
34 PEIS was issued, and hence, were added to Final PEIS in an appendix (see
35 Appendix E) along with pertinent information from these documents.
- 36
37 • Text was revised to provide clarifications on technical discussions pertaining
38 to human health, surface water, and cultural resource protection, based on
39 discussion with the EPA and BLM in their capacity as cooperators.
- 40
41 • Text was added describing the development of a Programmatic Agreement or
42 PA to manage the process for evaluating and protecting cultural resources that
43 could be impacted by the ULP (see Chapter 6). The PA is under development
44 and will be completed before the ROD for the ULP PEIS.
- 45
46

1 I.3 TOPICS OF INTEREST

2

3 DOE has identified nine topics of interest based on the comments that were most
4 frequently received and/or the comments that indicated a broad public concern. These topics are
5 summarized in the list that follows and discussed in the text that comes after it. The order in
6 which topics are presented and discussed here does not indicate importance of one topic over
7 another.

8

- 9 • PEIS analyses need to be more site-specific and more robust in scope.
10 Assumptions used need to be supported with citations.
- 11
- 12 • Support Alternative 1, which states that DOE would terminate all leases, and
13 all operations would be reclaimed by lessees. DOE would continue to manage
14 the withdrawn lands, without uranium leasing, in accordance with applicable
15 requirements.
- 16
- 17 • Support Alternative 4, which is DOE's preferred alternative identified in the
18 ULP PEIS. Under Alternative 4, DOE would continue the ULP with the
19 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.
- 20
- 21 • Concern for NEPA-related issues, such as the appropriateness and adequacy
22 of the purpose and need described in the ULP PEIS; the adequacy of the range
23 of alternatives presented and evaluated; and the need for more specific
24 information to assure that appropriate follow-on NEPA reviews will be
25 conducted as specific mine plans are submitted for DOE approval.
- 26
- 27 • Reclaim and clean up previously mined sites; conduct reclamation of mined
28 locations during long periods of inactivity.
- 29
- 30 • Maintain mined uranium ore from the ULP lease tracts as a domestic supply.
- 31
- 32 • Use the ULP lease tracts for generating renewable energy instead of uranium
33 ore production.
- 34
- 35 • Although a long list of mitigation measures is presented in the ULP PEIS,
36 some are inadequate, and additional measures need to be included. The ULP
37 PEIS lacks a discussion on the effectiveness of the measures presented. It is
38 also not clear if some of these measures would be required and how they
39 would be implemented.
- 40
- 41 • The cumulative impacts analysis does not cover enough area and does not
42 address some projects in the region of cumulative impacts, such as the oil and
43 gas wells present in the area. The conclusions or determinations of negligible
44 to minor potential cumulative impacts need to be re-evaluated.
- 45
- 46

1 **I.3.1 PEIS analyses need to be more site-specific and more robust in scope. Assumptions**
2 **used need to be supported with citations.**

3
4
5 **Topic Summary**

6
7 Commenters said that the analyses performed in the PEIS to estimate the impacts of the
8 program were inadequate. Many commenters asserted that the assumptions made to support the
9 analysis are arbitrary and not supported by citations. Commenters requested that more site-
10 specific data be included and evaluated so that conclusions presented can better support site-
11 specific decisions.

12
13 Many commenters were specifically concerned about the adequacy of the evaluations of
14 the impacts on human health, air quality, noise, water quality and water supply, endangered
15 species, socioeconomics, and transportation. Specifically, the concerns expressed were the
16 following: (1) human health impacts from exposure to potentially uranium-contaminated
17 “red-colored” dust some 50 or so mi (about 80 km) away from the ULP lease tracts; (2) climate
18 change impacts; (3) the Colorado River Basin and the impacts of the proposed action on water
19 quantity, water quality, and endangered Colorado River fish species; and (4) impacts on the
20 recreational activities that many people in the area enjoy, and the effects from a boom-and-bust
21 economy that might be created by the proposed action.

22
23 **Discussion**

24
25 The evaluations conducted for the PEIS were based on site-specific information (see
26 Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). The information is adequate to support the
27 alternatives evaluated and for making fully informed decisions relative to any of the alternatives.
28 Although site-specific information for future mines is not available until the lessees submit
29 specific mine plans, information is available from past mining activities (e.g., cultural resources,
30 threatened and endangered species, waste-rock and ore characteristics, and transportation
31 practices and routes) and is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future
32 mining activities for the five alternatives, including a thorough cumulative effects analysis.

33
34 The results of the evaluation (which incorporate site-specific information) are discussed
35 in detail in Chapter 4 and summarized in Sections 2.4.2 to 2.4.13 and Tables 2.4-4 to 2.4-9). The
36 PEIS was revised to add citations where necessary to indicate the sources for information used in
37 the PEIS analyses, including the sources consulted for developing the assumptions that were
38 used.

39
40 The human health analysis of the inhalation of dust pathway addressed potential impacts
41 from dust that could originate from the lease tracts. The analysis took into account the emission
42 potential and wind direction. This analysis (discussed in Section 4.3.5.3) indicates that inhalation
43 of dust is not a significant pathway and does not pose a health concern; that is, the potential
44 cancer risk to an individual in Telluride would be much lower than $1 \times 10^{-6}/\text{yr}$, based on the
45 estimates of risks presented in the PEIS, at a distance of 3.1 mi (5,000 m) from the lease tracts
46 and the much longer distance (greater than 3.1 mi [5,000 m]) from the lease tracts to Telluride.

47

1 Climate change was evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and
2 4.5.1) in terms of greenhouse gases (GHGs) generated by the ULP proposed action for the five
3 alternatives, respectively. The results indicate that under all alternatives, the maximum potential
4 GHG emissions attributable to the ULP would be small. For perspective, ULP GHG emissions
5 would comprise a very small percentage of both Colorado and U.S. GHGs generated (up to
6 0.03% and 0.0005%, respectively). U.S. GHG emissions account for about one-fifth of global
7 GHG emissions, and GHG emissions from the ULP proposed action would contribute up to
8 about 0.0001% more. The amount of GHGs generated is generally used as a measure of the
9 potential impacts on climate change. ULP operations followed by power generation at nuclear
10 power plants would result in considerably smaller amounts of criteria and toxic air pollutants and
11 GHG emissions than would otherwise be released from fossil power plants. The text in the PEIS
12 has been revised (see the same sections mentioned previously) to explain further how potential
13 impacts from climate change were determined for the PEIS and what the results mean.

14
15 The evaluation of potential transportation impacts presented in this PEIS was done in
16 consultation with the Colorado Department of Transportations as reflected in Chapter 4 (see
17 Section 4.3.10 and Table 4.6-1).

18
19 The potential impacts to water depletion in the Upper Colorado watershed are evaluated
20 in this PEIS; and DOE has consulted with the USFWS with regards to how this water depletion
21 would potentially impact the Colorado four endangered fish species. PEIS text has been revised
22 to be consistent with the BA and BO (see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4).

23
24 DOE has initiated programmatic consultation, in compliance with Section 106 of the
25 NHPA, concerning DOE's management of the ULP. Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal
26 agencies to consider the effect of their undertakings on historic properties and to consult with the
27 appropriate SHPO, American Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and other parties that
28 have an interest in the effects of the undertaking on historic properties. For the ULP, per the
29 procedure that has historically been and is currently still being carried out, DOE has addressed
30 consultation through the BLM and the lessees on specific undertakings when ULP
31 activities/plans have been proposed. However, since the NHPA allows for the utilization of a
32 programmatic agreement (PA) to govern large or complex projects, and since PAs can be used
33 when effects on historic properties are expected to be similar and repetitive or regional in scope
34 or when these effects cannot be fully determined prior to approval of an undertaking, DOE has
35 initiated the development of a PA for the ULP. DOE initiated discussion with the BLM and the
36 Colorado SHPO on May 30, 2013. The PA will be revised to address input and review from the
37 consulting parties, and then routed to the responsive parties for concurrence. DOE-LM plans to
38 have the PA in place before issuance of the ULP PEIS ROD.

39
40 See also Section I.3.2 for a discussion regarding the concern about the potential for
41 creating a boom-and-bust economy from uranium mining in the area.

42
43

1 **I.3.2 Support Alternative 1, which states that DOE would terminate all leases, and all**
2 **operations would be reclaimed by lessees. DOE would continue to manage the**
3 **withdrawn lands, without uranium leasing, in accordance with applicable**
4 **requirements.**

7 **Topic Summary**

8
9 Commenters requested that the ULP be terminated and that lessees be required to reclaim
10 their operations on their respective lease tracts. Commenters cited concerns over natural
11 resources, cultural resources, human health, transportation, and visual impacts of uranium
12 mining in Colorado for Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

13
14 Many commenters noted that uranium mining is hazardous for human health and the
15 environment. They identified concerns about the radioactivity of waste rock piles and the safety
16 of workers and nearby residents. They also noted that mining is harmful to the environment,
17 likely to adversely affect air and water quality, and may disturb cultural resources. A few
18 commenters also noted that mining conflicted with multiple use policies and should not take
19 place on public lands.

20
21 They also noted that mining for uranium creates a boom-and-bust economic cycle and
22 that it would be preferable to promote economic growth based on more sustainable resources
23 (e.g., encourage tourism-based economic growth by promoting natural resources and aesthetics).
24 Some other commenters expressed concerns about potential increases in traffic, noise, dust, and
25 the carbon footprint.

26
27 Finally, some commenters asserted that additional uranium mining was unnecessary
28 because the United States already has a robust supply of uranium and is able to import
29 inexpensive uranium from countries like Canada and Australia.

32 **Discussion**

33
34 DOE has evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives to meet the purpose and need
35 discussed in Section 1.4. After carefully considering all public comments and the results of the
36 PEIS evaluation, DOE has retained Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative in this PEIS. See the
37 detailed discussion regarding the purpose and need in Section I.3.4 that follows.

38
39 The PEIS evaluation for potential impacts from the five alternatives as discussed in
40 Chapter 4 (the impacts are also summarized in Section 2.4) concludes that potential impacts on
41 the resource areas (including natural resources, cultural resources, human health, transportation,
42 and visual impacts) evaluated for the five alternatives generally would be negligible to moderate
43 and could be further minimized by implementing the compliance and mitigation measures and/or
44 best management practices (BMPs) described in Section 4.6 and Table 4.6-1. All three phases of
45 mining (exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation) were evaluated for
46 Alternatives 3, 4, and 5, while only reclamation was evaluated for Alternatives 1 and 2, since

1 these two alternatives do not include continued future uranium mining. See also discussion in
2 Section I.3.1.

3

4 With regard to concerns about boom-and-bust economic cycles, the large-scale
5 development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the in-migration of
6 workers and their families from outside the region, producing a boom-and-bust scenario with
7 rapid growth in the population and economy, followed by equally rapid economic contraction,
8 unemployment, and out-migration. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining
9 and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area.
10 Thus, with no demographic impacts likely to occur, given the relatively small scale of
11 development under each of the alternatives, no boom-and-bust scenario would be likely to affect
12 either low-income and minority populations or the general population. In addition there is no
13 evidence to suggest that activities under the proposed ULP would have a negative effect on
14 recreation tourism.

15

16

17 **I.3.3 Support Alternative 4, which is DOE's preferred alternative identified in the ULP**
18 **PEIS. Under Alternative 4, DOE would continue the ULP with the 31 lease tracts for**
19 **the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.**

20

21

22 **Topic Summary**

23

24 Many commenters voiced support for Alternative 4, under which DOE would continue
25 the ULP with the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.
26 DOE identified Alternative 4 as its preferred alternative. Commenters cited their support of
27 uranium mining and the need to secure uranium resources. They also said that the jobs created by
28 the mining industry were beneficial to the region and its inhabitants. They noted their support for
29 the PEIS procedures and noted that the environmental impact analysis was robust. These
30 commenters said that the uranium mining was safe and had a low environmental impact and that
31 the lessees were good stewards of the environment. They mentioned that it would be preferable
32 to mine uranium in the United States, where environmental regulations are stringent and
33 enforced. Finally, they noted that nuclear energy is an important source of domestic energy
34 production.

35

36

37 **Discussion**

38

39 DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the ULP PEIS
40 evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as its preferred alternative in this ULP PEIS. The
41 potential impacts discussed in Chapter 4 are summarized in Sections 2.4.1 to 2.4.13 and in
42 Tables 2.4-4 to 2.4-9. See also the discussion in Section I.3.1. DOE believes that uranium mining
43 activities at the ULP lease tracts can continue to be conducted in a manner protective of the
44 environment and public health, as supported by the ULP PEIS analyses and results obtained. For
45 Alternative 4, mine development and operations could create about 229 direct jobs and
46 152 indirect jobs, generating about \$14.8 million in income. Average unemployment for Mesa,
47 Montrose, and San Miguel Counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%,

1 respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1). See also the discussion in Section I.3.4 that follows regarding
2 concerns about the purpose and need discussed in Section 1.4 of the ULP PEIS.

3
4
5 **I.3.4 Concern for NEPA-related issues, such as the appropriateness and adequacy of the**
6 **purpose and need described in the ULP PEIS; the adequacy of the range of**
7 **alternatives presented and evaluated; and the need for more specific information to**
8 **assure that appropriate follow-on NEPA reviews will be conducted as specific mine**
9 **plans are submitted for DOE approval.**

10 11 12 **Topic Summary**

13
14 Many commenters identified NEPA issues in their submissions. Many commenters said
15 that the purpose and need as identified in the PEIS was inadequate. For example, some
16 commenters noted that DOE had oversimplified the Purpose and Need Statement, and, as such,
17 the alternatives identified in the PEIS were not in compliance with Congressional legislation.
18 Some commenters stated that the purpose and need requires an expansion of the scope of the
19 PEIS. Other commenters noted that the alternatives identified in the PEIS did not support the
20 Purpose and Need Statement or that the Purpose and Need Statement was inappropriate. For
21 example, one commenter noted that the Purpose and Need Statement inappropriately focuses on
22 the need to develop these reserves rather than on an analysis of whether it is the prudent time to
23 develop these reserves. Commenters requested that the Purpose and Need Statement be clarified
24 in the Final ULP PEIS.

25
26 Many other commenters mentioned that the alternatives identified in the ULP PEIS were
27 inadequate. For example, some commenters requested that a reclamation alternative, in which
28 the ULP is terminated and all disturbed areas are reclaimed, be added to the ULP PEIS. Other
29 commenters requested that an alternative that would keep the uranium ore in place until demand
30 is evident be included in the ULP PEIS. This alternative would call for current uranium demand
31 and prices, as well as projections of future uranium demand and prices, to be considered in
32 determining the number of lease tracts that are developed. Commenters requested that these
33 alternatives be included in the Final ULP PEIS.

34
35 Some commenters said that the ULP PEIS fails to satisfy NEPA because additional
36 follow-on NEPA review will not be required for future actions on the ULP lease tracts due to the
37 categorical exclusions provided under the program. To protect Federal lands, these commenters
38 requested that further NEPA reviews, or, at a minimum, an environmental assessment (EA), be
39 performed for future action on the lease tracts. Commenters said that that site-specific data
40 should be used to document the condition of the sites and the cumulative impacts of the program
41 and that future NEPA reviews consider a detailed analysis of the site-specific conditions and
42 foreseeable activities.

43
44 Other commenters voiced concerns about public participation in the ULP PEIS process.
45 Some commenters said that the public was not given sufficient time to comment on the PEIS

1 documents. Many commenters requested that the PEIS be re-done and re-released with these
2 issues addressed.

5 **Discussion**

7 DOE does not agree with the comments alleging that the purpose and need for the
8 proposed action requires expansion of the scope of the PEIS. As explained in PEIS Section 1.4,
9 “Purpose and Need for Agency Action,” the underlying purpose and need for agency action was
10 established by the U.S. Congress in two provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA):
11 42 U.S.C. § 2096, which authorized and directed DOE, among other things, to develop a supply
12 of domestic uranium; and 42 U.S.C. § 2097, which authorized DOE “to issue leases or permits
13 for prospecting for, exploration for, mining of, or removal of deposits of source material
14 [including uranium ore] in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems
15 necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA.”

17 PEIS Section 1.4 follows the language of the second of those two AEA provisions
18 (42 U.S.C. § 2097) when it states that in support of those provisions, “DOE needs to determine
19 the future course of the ULP, including whether to continue leasing some or all of DOE’s
20 withdrawn lands and other claims . . . for the exploration and production of uranium and
21 vanadium ores.” PEIS Section 1.6, “Scope of This Draft PEIS,” therefore describes the scope of
22 its analysis as the evaluation of the five alternatives for managing the ULP, and the evaluation of
23 “the three mining phases associated with the underground and surface open-pit mining methods,”
24 which “are the exploration phase, mine development and operations phase, and reclamation
25 phases.” Therefore, the AEA provisions support the present scope of the ULP PEIS, and do not
26 require that the scope be expanded beyond the ULP to analyze the entire nuclear fuel cycle.
27 Further, no DOE decision to be based on this PEIS would change the nation’s use of nuclear
28 fuels, including use of nuclear power reactors and management of associated radioactive
29 materials. These and other aspects of the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle are the subject of
30 numerous other NEPA reviews, including many EISs prepared by the Nuclear Regulatory
31 Commission.

33 The DPEIS’s Purpose and Need section, in addition to citing the AEA, also cited the
34 Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58 (EPACT), and stated that EPACT “emphasized
35 the reestablishment of nuclear power (Sections 601 through 657).” Comments received alleges
36 that the DPEIS thereby expanded the purpose of the proposed action “through a suggestion that
37 the 2005 Energy Policy Act calls for more nuclear energy,” and that the scope should be
38 expanded to include the nuclear fuel cycle for that reason. It was not DOE’s intent to make that
39 suggestion in the DPEIS. The cited EPACT sections 601 through 657 constitute EPACT’s
40 Title VI, entitled “Nuclear Matters,” which addressed various nuclear matters and amended
41 several sections of the AEA. However, EPACT’s Title VI did not “call for more nuclear energy,”
42 or amend the two provisions of the AEA that the DPEIS cited in the beginning of its Purpose and
43 Need Section: 42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097. In order to avoid any confusion regarding the
44 interpretation of the DPEIS’s references to EPAct, DOE has amended the Purpose and Need
45 section of this PEIS, in Section 1.4, to explain that Congress expressed, in EPAct, a continued
46 commitment to “decreasing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy supplies”

1 (42 U.S.C. 16181(a)(3)); and to “[e]nhancing nuclear power’s viability as part of the
2 United States energy portfolio” (42 U.S.C. §16271 (a)(1). The development of a supply of
3 domestic uranium supports the provisions of the AEA and the EPAct. However, the development
4 of a supply of domestic uranium is separate and distinct from the future utilization of nuclear
5 energy during the entire nuclear fuel cycle. The ULP is related to uranium supply, rather than to
6 future use, which is dependent upon the exact level of future demand for nuclear energy and is
7 therefore uncertain and speculative. The development of a domestic uranium supply, as
8 authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is
9 uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

10
11 Alternative 1 evaluated in the Draft PEIS does provide a localized, in depth analysis—
12 this alternative involves the termination of the leases with reclamation at any areas requiring
13 such. DOE’s land withdrawal relates to the extraction of uranium and vanadium resources from
14 the ULP lease tracts. As such, developing alternative energy is outside the scope of the ULP.

15
16 DOE does not agree with comments that the Purpose and Need Statement must specify
17 the lessee’s mitigation requirements; however, the PEIS does contain a robust discussion of
18 mitigation requirements (see Section 4.6).

19
20 Regarding comments about follow-on NEPA reviews, the PEIS states in Section 1.7:
21 “After the ROD [Record of Decision] is issued, as plans (for exploration, mine development and
22 operation, and reclamation) are submitted by the lessees to DOE for approval, further NEPA
23 review for a given action would be conducted. The level of follow-on NEPA review to be done
24 (e.g., categorical exclusion determination, environmental assessment, or environmental impact
25 statement) would depend on the action being proposed by the lessees, as indicated in the plans
26 submitted. This NEPA review would be conducted to inform DOE’s decision on approval of the
27 specific plans, including the conditions DOE would require to mitigate potential impacts.” Based
28 on the comments received, Section 1.7 has been revised to state that for all future mining plans
29 submitted for approval, DOE will require, at a minimum, an EA with appropriate public
30 involvement to be prepared to further evaluate potential site-specific impacts. DOE will issue
31 categorical exclusion determinations for classes of actions such as routine maintenance activities
32 that DOE has determined by regulation do not have the potential to result in significant
33 environmental impacts. DOE makes its categorical exclusions publicly available on the internet.

34
35 Although some commenters said the public was not given sufficient time to comment on
36 the PEIS, DOE provided over twice the mandatory duration. The 60-day comment period
37 initially provided exceeded the required 45-day comment period. The comment period was
38 extended twice, so that the final comment period lasted for 109 days.

39
40 After deliberation, DOE determined that re-issuing of the ULP PEIS is not necessary.
41 DOE has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives and that the information and
42 analysis in the PEIS is adequate for all of the alternatives (see discussion in I.3.1 for a summary
43 of potential impacts discussed in the PEIS). DOE has reviewed the public comments and, while
44 DOE has made revisions to the document in response to comments, DOE has not made
45 substantial changes to the proposed action and no new significant information has been
46 discovered so as to warrant issuing a revised Draft ULP PEIS.

1 **I.3.5 Reclaim and clean up previously mined sites; conduct reclamation of mined locations**
2 **during long periods of inactivity.**

3
4
5 **Topic Summary**

6
7 Many commenters said that previously disturbed mining sites should be reclaimed before
8 any new mining moves forward. Commenters said that cleanup would provide the region with
9 many more jobs and lead to higher economic growth than that realized from uranium mining.
10 Some commenters voiced a preference for these types of jobs over jobs from the mining
11 industry.

12
13
14 **Discussion**

15
16 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been
17 completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be
18 reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's
19 oversight or authority to reclaim. With regard to the number of jobs that could be generated from
20 the reclamation of the currently 12 existing mines on the ULP lease tracts, the estimates provided
21 in Alternative 1 (which evaluates reclamation of these 12 existing mines) indicate that up to
22 29 direct jobs and 16 indirect jobs could be generated.

23
24 Reclamation is required by Federal and state law and by provisions of the lease.
25 Consistent with state requirements, one lease holder has filed environmental protection plans
26 (EPPs), and another lease holder has submitted reclamation plans. State law requires lease
27 holders to enter Temporary Cessation (TC) if inactive for more than 180 days for an initial
28 period of 5 years. A second 5-year TC may be granted by the state. However, under no
29 circumstances shall the TC period be longer than 10 consecutive years. If TC reaches the 10-year
30 maximum, or a second 5-year period is not granted, an operator is required to either reactivate
31 for a year or fully comply with reclamation and EPP requirements.

32
33
34 **I.3.6 Maintain mined uranium ore from the ULP lease tracts as a domestic supply.**

35
36
37 **Topic Summary**

38
39 Many commenters noted in their submissions that they would prefer that uranium mined
40 in the United States not be exported to foreign governments. Some commenters voiced concerns
41 over national security interests, saying that uranium should not be sold to foreign governments to
42 prevent them from engaging in uranium enrichment activities as part of a program to develop
43 nuclear weapons. Other commenters voiced concerns over energy policy interests, saying that
44 uranium should not be exported to foreign governments because domestic nuclear energy needs
45 take precedence.

1 Other commenters requested that the uranium supply be maintained in the ground. These
2 commenters explained that there is no need to generate additional uranium supply because there
3 are already sufficient supplies of uranium stockpiled for domestic use. Few commenters said that
4 there was no market for uranium and others noted that this country already has a robust supply of
5 uranium. Commenters said that uranium ores should be kept in the ground until the time comes
6 when the stockpiled domestic supply needs to be augmented.

9 Discussion

11 DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the
12 NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the
13 possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export. The possibility that uranium
14 or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's
15 stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the
16 export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any
17 source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear
18 Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which
19 impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any
20 domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations,
21 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any
22 person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance
23 of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and
24 safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any
25 export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited
26 provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

28 In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after
29 a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary
30 permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to
31 support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic
32 uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of
33 deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems
34 necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP
35 program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

38 I.3.7 Use the ULP lease tracts for generating renewable energy instead of uranium ore 39 production.

42 Topic Summary

44 Some commenters said they would prefer that the land within the ULP lease tracts be
45 used to generate renewable energy. They noted that solar or wind resources were plentiful in the
46 region and that DOE should be doing more to promote renewables over nuclear energy.

1 Commenters noted that renewable energy resources such as solar and wind have less of an
2 impact on the region's environment and the health of area residents.

5 Discussion

7 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable
8 energy is outside the scope of the PEIS; and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need"
9 discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for
10 such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE
11 oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy
12 production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

15 **I.3.8 Although a long list of mitigation measures is presented in the ULP PEIS, some are
16 inadequate, and additional measures need to be included. The ULP PEIS lacks a
17 discussion on the effectiveness of the measures presented. It is also not clear if some
18 of these measures would be required and how they would be implemented.**

21 Topic Summary

23 Commenters pointed out that mitigation measures identified in the ULP PEIS were
24 inadequate or requested that additional mitigation measures be added to the ULP PEIS. Several
25 commenters said that the buffer zone around the Dolores River was inadequate and requested
26 that it be expanded. Commenters noted several other mitigation measures that needed to be
27 strengthened or modified. For example, one commenter noted that to mitigate radionuclides from
28 blowing onto residences, it would be necessary not only to cover the waste rock piles with soil
29 but also to spray the soil with water or some other barrier. Commenters were also concerned
30 about the enforceability of the mitigation measures. They noted that resources would best be
31 protected if lessees were required to undertake the identified mitigation measures.

34 Discussion

36 As indicated in Section 4.6, measures that are identified as compliance and mitigation
37 measures would be implemented because they are required by law (compliance measures) or
38 have been identified to minimize potential impacts (mitigation measures) as included in the
39 leases. The ULP PEIS also indicates that mitigation measures that are currently not in the leases
40 would be included as leases are modified. Implementation of the compliance and mitigation
41 measures would be under the oversight of the corresponding oversight agencies. DOE is
42 responsible for assuring that lease requirements are met and thus would enforce mitigation
43 measures in leases.

1 **I.3.9 The cumulative impacts analysis does not cover enough area and does not address**
2 **some projects in the region of cumulative impacts, such as the oil and gas wells**
3 **present in the area. The conclusions or determinations of negligible to minor**
4 **potential cumulative impacts need to be re-evaluated.**
5
6

7 **Topic Summary**

8

9 Many commenters said that the cumulative impacts analysis was inadequate.
10 Commenters noted that some information was not included in the cumulative impacts analysis,
11 such as the impacts that could result from climate change and oil and gas activities. Other
12 commenters noted that the cumulative impacts analysis did not address the impacts from the
13 Piñon Ridge Mill. Commenters said the ULP PEIS lacked a detailed cumulative impacts study;
14 excluded an investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and
15 public health; and failed to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium
16 activities in this region. Commenters requested that these analyses be performed for the final
17 issuance of the ULP PEIS.
18
19

20 **Discussion**

21

22 DOE has reviewed the analysis of cumulative impacts in light of these comments to
23 ensure that it is adequately comprehensive to provide a basis for informed, environmentally
24 sound decision making.
25

26 GHG emissions attributable to the ULP would be small (see discussion in I.3.1). Climate
27 would not be expected to adversely affect ULP activities, including successful reclamation, or
28 the impacts of ULP activities on resource areas, which are conservatively estimated in this PEIS.
29

30 Oil and gas projects within the 50-mi (80-km) ROI considered in the PEIS are discussed
31 and evaluated in Section 4.7.2.4. A total of 3,121 wells are located within the ROI studied, as
32 shown in Figure 4.7-2. Table 4.7-8 summarizes potential impacts in the ROI during exploration
33 and future development of oil and gas lease parcels. The cumulative impacts evaluation in
34 Section 4.7.2.2 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mi (80-km) ROI.
35 The proposed Piñon Ridge Mill is also evaluated relative to cumulative impacts, since it is within
36 the 50-mi (80-km) ROI addressed in this PEIS. Section 4.7.1.1 describes the Piñon Ridge Mill
37 project and its potential impacts on the environment and human health as discussed in reports
38 prepared by Energy Fuels. This information was then incorporated into Section 4.7.4 to
39 determine the cumulative impacts for this ULP PEIS.
40

41 Studies on long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health
42 as suggested by these commenters are not within the scope of this ULP PEIS. However, this ULP
43 PEIS does conservatively analyze the time frame for addressing the life-cycle of the proposed
44 action (i.e., considered the 10-year or longer time that mining activities could occur under the
45 lease terms), and it considers cumulative impacts from all reasonably foreseeable future actions
46 with the 50-mi (80-km) ROI under cumulative impacts.

1 **I.4 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

2

3 All comment documents received by DOE on the Draft ULP PEIS are provided in this
4 section. Each comment document received was assigned a comment document identifier. Oral
5 comments given at the public hearings were documented via transcripts prepared for each
6 hearing. Excerpts from the transcripts containing the oral comments provided by each
7 commenter at the hearings are also presented in this section. The transcripts can be found in their
8 entirety on the project web site at <http://www.ulpeis.anl.gov/>.

9

10 Comment documents received were organized into two categories. Section I.4.1 contains
11 all the comment documents received from organizations, and Section I.4.2 contains all comment
12 documents received from individual members of the public. At the beginning of each section in
13 Sections I.4.1 and I.4.2, a corresponding table that lists all of the organizations or individuals
14 from whom comment documents were received is included for reference. In these sections, a
15 side-by-side format is used, in which the comments identified from each comment document are
16 shown on the left side of the pages and the corresponding DOE responses are shown on the right
17 side of the pages.

18

19

20 **I.4.1 Organizations That Submitted Comments in Writing via Letter, E-mail, or Web** 21 **Portal or Orally at One of the Public Hearings**

22

23 Table I.4-1 tabulates all organizations (in alphabetical order) that submitted comments,
24 along with the comment document identifiers assigned to each. Comments identified within each
25 comment document are shown in brackets on the left side of the page(s), with the corresponding
26 response shown on the right side of the same page(s). The comment documents and responses
27 are presented at the end of Section I.4.

28

29

30 **I.4.2 Individuals Who Submitted Comments in Writing via Letter, E-mail, or Web Portal** 31 **or Orally at One of the Public Hearings**

32

33 Table I.4-2 tabulates all individuals (in alphabetical order) who submitted comments,
34 along with the comment document identifiers assigned to each. Comments identified within each
35 comment document are shown in brackets on the left side of the page(s), with the corresponding
36 response shown on the right side of the same page(s). The comment documents and responses
37 are presented at the end of Section I.4.

1
2
3**TABLE I.4-1 Organizations That Submitted Comments in Writing via Letter, E-mail, or Web Portal or Orally at One of the Public Hearings for ULP**

Name	Comment Document No.
Bureau of Land Management, Tres Rios Field Office	L33
Citizens for Clean Air	L44
Cotter Corporation	L50
Curecanti Medical Society	L45
Department of the Interior	L38
Dolores River Coalition	L46
Energy & Conservation Law	L47
Hopi Tribe	L1
Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership	L39
Mesa County Department of Public Services	L32
Montrose County	T29
Montrose County, Board of County Commissioners	L3
San Miguel County Board of Commissioners	L41
Town of Telluride	L53
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8	L43
Uranium Watch and Living Rivers	L48
Western Colorado Congress	L49
Western Small Miners Association	L36

4
5
6
7
8**TABLE I.4-2 Individuals Who Submitted Comments in Writing via Letter, E-mail, or Web Portal or Orally at One of the Public Hearings for ULP**

Name	Comment Document No.
Acker, Thomas	T3
Adams, Francine	E94
Adamson, Susie	T20
Allen, Chris	L10
Andersen, Lori	E74
Anderson, Gordon	E59
Anderson, Gordon	E97
Applegate, Josh	L16
Arrington, Bob	E108
Aubert, Josh	L22
Bachman, Hether	E43
Baker, Jefferson	L23
Ballantyne, Marvin	T25
Barford, Denise	E79
Bennett, Jan	W16
Beverly, Robert G.	L2

9

TABLE I.4-2 (Cont.)

Name	Comment Document No.
Boeschstein, Bennett	E30
Boling, Ashley	T42
Bowen, Sandra	E2
Brannon, Lee	E122
Brouillette, Carrie	L24
Brown, Charla	E31
Brown, Charla	E56
Brown, Charla	E117
Brown, David	L5
Brown, Ruthie	E12
Cale, Dave	T9
Callies, Lori	E78
Cascade, Robyn	E49
Case, Dudley	E4
Cassidy, Michael	E107
Catlin, Barbara	E32
Chamberlin, Judith	W10
Chowen, Carole	E8
Clay, Margaret	E18
Clow, Scott	T51
Collins, Kami	L25
Collins, Mark	T13
Colt, Summer	L8
Congour, David	E28
Congour, David	E93
Coombs, Mary	E37
Cooper, Hilary	T47
Cort, George	W7
Cort, George	W14
Cort, George	W18
Coulter, Sara	E65
Crawford, Dave	T27
Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn	L37
Cunningham, Kirk	E96
Daniels, Mel	E84
Davidian, Jerry	W19
Davison, John	E87
de Bivort, Lawry	T48
Delaney, Betty	E69
Deuter, Catherine	E54
Dix, Deborah	W15
Douglas, A. Paul	E38
Douglas, A. Paul	E80
Dye, Angela	T40
Edge, Kristine	E61
Ekenrode, Carol	L6
Ellis, Ryan	T5

TABLE I.4-2 (Cont.)

Name	Comment Document No.
Ernst, Robert	E47
Esty, Jon and Rosemary	E3
Evans, Russell	E9
Evans, Russell	E67
Evans, Russell	E115
Fenn, Virgil	T7
Field, Sally	E113
Fraser, Frances	E13
Gabow, Bruce	E45
Galloway, Danny	E58
Galloway, Danny	E102
Glynn, David	T45
Goin, Wayne	E129
Golden, Marcia	E40
Gray, Dick	E57
Gray, Dick	E99
Green, Robert	E101
Greene, Howard	E1
Greene, Howard	E16
Greene, Nicole	E24
Greene, Nicole	E68
Grieger, Shawna	L26
Grossman, Robert	L51
Hallenberg, Steven	T21
Hallenborg, Lesley	E116
Hallenborg, Steven	E123
Halpern, Stuart	E95
Harrison, Zackoree	E17
Harrison, Zackoree	E90
Hayes, Joe	E36
Hayes, Joe	E105
Hazelhurst, Sean	L11
Heinrich, Mindi	L27
Heuscher, Penny	E120
Hiatt, Nina	E5
Hiatt, Nina	E70
Hiatt, Nina	E91
Hills, Penny	T14
Hoffmann, John	W5
Hoodwin, Marcia	E111
Hornback, Emily	E26
Hutcheson, Lorraine	L28
Johnson, Janet	T8
Jones, David	W11
Joy, Jay	E44
Justice, Susan	E89
Kanter, Holly	L17

TABLE I.4-2 (Cont.)

Name	Comment Document No.
Keller, JR	L18
Kemper, Katie	E50
Kendall, Don	L19
Kllanxhja, Piera	W6
Kllanxhja, Piera	E35
Kllanxhja, Piera	E118
Kllanxhja, Piera	E119
Kolachov, Nick	T50
Konola, Claudette	T11
Krute, Robert	E39
Krute, Robert	E77
Leas, Rebecca	E81
Lee, Carol	E85
Leeds, Frank	E127
Leonard, Betsy	E10
Leonard, Betsy	E62
Light, Paul	E55
Livingston, Catherine	E51
Lobato, Tony	T53
Lohmiller, Bruce	L4
Lyne, Beverly	T1
Magoon, Janet	E64
Magtutu, Gabe	E103
Mallard, Angela	L52
Maragon, Lisa	E41
Maragon, Lisa	E76
Marquardt, Michael	E34
Marvel, Gail	W4
May, Joan	T49
McKenney, Tom	E88
McTavish, Jodie	T16
Mercer, Karen	E66
Michaelis, Karen	E14
Miller, Glen	T6
Miller, Linda	T41
Mitchell, Dennis	T19
Moreng, Joseph	E33
Myers, Chris	T33
Name Withheld	W2
Name Withheld	W9
Name Withheld	L27
Niederkruger, Eric	T4
Oakes, Meagan	W17
Oday, Ky	L12
Oglesby, Betty	T23
Olmstead, Dennis	E104
Palmer, Shauna	T34

TABLE I.4-2 (Cont.)

Name	Comment Document No.
Parish, Barbara	E71
Parker, Jennifer	W8
Parker, Jennifer	T36
Parker, Jennifer	L13
Parker, Randy	T35
Parker, Tehri	E25
Peterson, Catherine	T37
Pfaff, Kristin	T2
Phillips, Benita	E121
Phillips, Benita	T12
Pierce, Carol	W3
Prendergast, Jim	E7
Quade, Wayne	T28
Radley, Rad	E46
Rahmann, Susan	L35
Ramey, James	E109
Reams, John	T54
Rechel, Eric	T10
Redmond, Mary	E53
Rensenbrink, Willy	E92
Rice King, Karen	E42
Riddell, Jim	T26
Ries, Erin	L7
Roberts, Gary	E73
Robinson, Rita	E21
Rogers, Don	E22
Rogers, Don	E75
Rogers, Missy	E126
Rozycki, Mike	T39
Rupp, Marjorie	E52
Sadowski, Vicki	T31
Safken, Melody	E83
Safken, Melody	E128
Saftler, Michael	T44
Sandberg, Nick	W12
Sands, Ed	E29
Saunders, Bob	T32
Savant, Sam	W13
Schoettler, Joanne	E82
Schofield, Mark	E15
Sharp, Rod	L20
Siglin, Patrick	T18
Smith, Wally	T24
Stettner, Paul	E11
Stettner, Paul	E63
Stucklen, Deborah	W1
Syldona, Maria	E6

TABLE I.4-2 (Cont.)

Name	Comment Document No.
Szilagyi, Paul	T38
Taylor, Kristin	L9
Taylor, Linda	E124
Terrill, Nancy	E27
Terry, Noalani	E72
Terry, Noalani	E106
Thompson, Donald	E110
Thompson, Jane	T57
Thurston, Jennifer	T43
Townsend, Carl	E48
Turner, Greg	L29
Unfred, Alisa	L14
Unfred, Craig	L15
van West, Rein and Jan	E86
van West, Rein and Jan	E112
Vandersloot, George	T30
Vanek, Jolana	E114
Varecha, Debbie	E98
Wallace, Troy	T56
Wetzel, Angela	L21
Wheels, Kim	E125
White, Carolyn	L40
Wickham, Roger	L42
Williams, Glen	T22
Williams, Glen	T46
Williams, Glen	T55
Wilson, Kylynn	L30
Wilson, Mary Lou	L31
Wizer, Joyce	E19
Wizer, Joyce	E20
Wong, Choi	T15
Wood, Linda	E100
Woodward, Joan	T17
Yoho-Wikse, Nicholas	T52
Ziegler, Cynthia	E23
Ziegler, Cynthia	E60

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ORGANIZATIONS

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ULP PEIS DRAFT COOPERATORS REVIEW RECORD

Reviewer James Blair		James.Blair@blm.gov	
BLM, Tres Rios FO		970-882-6862	5/17/13
Comment No.	Page No./Line No.	Reviewer's Comments and Recommendation	Comment Resolution
01	S-12 All	Good table. Thanks.	
02	S-73 - Footnote 5	States that the "final radioactive fuel's license" is Energy Fuels "main asset". This may not be true, since Energy Fuels acquired many, if not all of Denison Mines assets, including several mines and an operating Mill in White Mesa Uigh.	
03	3-194/29	"40mi (69 mi)" should probably be miles/kilometers	

L33-1

L33-2

L33-3

- L33-1 Comment noted. DOE appreciates the effort by BLM as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process.
- L33-2 The descriptor "main" has been revised to "an" - the footnote now reads: "...issued a final radioactive materials license to Energy Fuels Resources Corporation (which is an asset of Ontario's Energy Fuels Resources, Inc., located in Lakewood, Colorado),....".
- L33-3 This has been corrected to 69 kilometers.

Bureau of Land Management, Tres Rios Field Office, Commenter ID No. L33 (Cont.)

DRAFT ULP PEIS (Dated May 2013) COOPERATORS REVIEW RECORD

Reviewer Linda Reed		Reviewer's Email lreed@blm.gov	
Reviewer's Organization BLM		Reviewer's Phone 970 240 5322	
Comment No.	Page No./ Line No.	Reviewer's Comments and Recommendation	Comment Resolution
1	4-299, Line 30	Replace the word "prevents" with "reduces"	

L33-4

L33-4 Replaced "prevents" with "reduces" per comment.

Citizens for Clean Air, Commenter ID No. L44

June 28, 2013

Mr. Raymond Plieness
ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Mr. Plieness,

Regarding the Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), members of *Citizens for Clean Air* are writing to voice our concerns on the uranium leasing of 25,000 acres in three counties, including our own Mesa County.

Our air shed is under considerable strain from a number of activities other than the proposed uranium resource development. Currently, ozone levels are hovering dangerously close to violating health and safety standards set by the EPA, threatening the air we breathe. The chemical VOC and NO_x ozone precursors produced by oil and gas operations make the industry the greatest polluter. The DOE preferred Alternative No. 4 states that potential impacts to regional ozone would not be of concern (line 17, 2.4.1). We strongly disagree; the potential impacts concern us. We cannot afford even a small percentage of additional VOCs and NO_x caused by uranium mine development. We are already at risk of non-attainment status, which would put us under the control of federal authority.

In addition, the DOE preferred Alternative No. 4 states that air quality impacts of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions from mine development are estimated to be about 3.0% and 1.3% of the three-county total emissions (2.4.1 lines 12,13,14 pg.237). Last winter, a record 47 days of cold air inversions affected Grand Junction, Delta and Montrose residents below 6,000 feet. During that period, air quality levels exceeded federal standards of safety due to high concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, recorded by the Mesa County Health Department. In addition to oil and gas industry contributions, the culprits were vehicle emissions, wood burning stoves, and other open burning emissions. Even small amounts of additional particulates due to uranium operations would be unacceptable, due to our current status of near non-attainment.

A 2011 report on the Public Health Impacts of Uranium Mining conducted by the Southern Environmental Law Center supports our concerns. The report states that "The waste generated by uranium mining and milling contains many hazardous and toxic substances, including radon, selenium, molybdenum, uranium and thorium," and that "Radon released from mining and milling wastes and in the mines themselves poses a risk of lung cancer to both mine workers and surrounding communities."

L44-1 For ozone, an area is considered to be in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) when the 3-year average of the annual 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentration at a site is less than or equal to 0.075 ppm (73 FR 16436, Mar 27, 2008). Currently, all counties encompassing the ULP lease tracts are designated as unclassifiable/attainment area. The nearest O₃ nonattainment areas include Denver metropolitan area and the Upper Green River Basin (UGRB) in southwest Wyoming, which includes the entire Sublette County, east-central Lincoln, and northwestern Sweetwater Counties. In 2012, the UGRB was designated as a marginal nonattainment area related to wintertime high ozone.

Ozone is primarily a summertime pollutant. The conditions conducive to high ozone concentrations typically include high temperature, low wind speeds, intense solar radiation, and an absence of precipitation. However, high ozone concentrations have recently been observed in several western rural areas during winter months, even when temperatures are below freezing and lower solar radiation prevails.

Air quality modeling indicated that these high-ozone incidents during wintertime result from several factors: elevated wintertime solar radiation due to the higher elevation and enhanced by high albedo of snow cover; shallow mixing layer below temperature inversion; no or few clouds; stagnant or light winds; and abundant ozone precursors (such as NO_x and VOCs) from existing oil and gas development activities. Topographic and meteorological conditions around the ULP lease tracts are similar to those in Sublette County, Wyoming. Thus, elevated wintertime ozone is likely when high ozone-induced meteorological conditions prevail and ozone precursor emissions are abundant. Recently, ozone monitoring has begun in northwestern Colorado (e.g., Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties) and northeastern Utah (e.g., Uintah County), for which monitored ozone levels frequently exceed NAAQS mostly during winter months.

There are several O₃ monitoring stations south of I-70 along the state boundary between Colorado and Utah (EPA 2013), which have elevations similar to ULP lease tracts ranging 5,000-8,000 ft. Monitoring data at these stations exceed NAAQS on occasion only in the summer months and does not show any sign of wintertime high ozone.

In the three counties with typical rural setting, VOCs emissions occur everywhere where the atmospheric chemistry is in the NO_x limited. For NO_x, on-road vehicular emissions account for slightly over 30%, followed by point sources and oil and gas-related emissions at about 22% each. As discussed in the Draft PEIS, ozone precursor emissions from ULP activities are estimated to be a small fraction of those that occur in the three ULP counties (up to 2.3%) and scattered over a wide area (about 50-mi stretch). These potential emissions from the ULP lease tracts could slightly increase the ozone levels but would be a minor contributor to total ozone levels in the area.

Lyman, S., and H. Shorthill (editors), 2013, *Final Report: 2012 Uintah Basin Winter Ozone & Air Quality Study*, Feb. 1. Available at http://rd.usu.edu/files/uploads/ubos_2011-12_final_report.pdf.

EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2013, *AirData, Access to monitored air quality data from EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) Data Mart*. Available at <http://www.epa.gov/airdata/index.html>

L44-2 For PM₁₀, an area is considered to be in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) when 24-hour PM₁₀ concentrations are not exceeded over 150 µg/m³ more than once per year on average over 3 years. For PM_{2.5}, an area is considered to be in attainment of NAAQS when 3-year average of 98th percentiles is less than 35 µg/m³. Currently, all

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As citizens, we recognize the need to be accountable for our personal contributions to air pollution due to home energy consumption, vehicle exhaust, wood burning, etc. *Citizens for Clean Air* is working locally to improve and implement existing regulations. At the same time, we expect and entrust the DOE to protect our right to breathe clean air. We feel that impacts to air quality have not been sufficiently considered in the PEIS, and urge the DOE to conduct a more comprehensive study on long-term impacts.

Finally, our area has still not recovered fully from the negative effects of a history of uranium mining and milling; mine reclamation has not been completed, leaving troublesome toxic soils, water contamination, and mill tailings resulting in fugitive air emissions.

Until a more comprehensive study of impacts on long-term air pollution is conducted by the DOE, we do not feel the implementation of the ULP is warranted.

In the meantime, we strongly support reclaiming existing mines before initiating further uranium extraction activities.

Sincerely,

Karen Sjoberg
Chair
Citizens for Clean Air
c/o 514 Rado Dr. #F
Grand Junction, CO 81507

L44-3
(Cont.)

L44-4

counties encompassing the ULP lease tracts are designated as unclassifiable/attainment areas. The nearest PM (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) nonattainment areas include Wasatch Front in Utah, including Salt Lake City, Provo, and/or Ogden.

In the summertime, high wind events can lead to unusually high PM values. In addition, high PM values tend to occur during wintertime temperature inversions. Air quality trends are difficult to evaluate because meteorological conditions play a large role in the data collected from year to year. That is why the standard is evaluated over three-year period.

Per PM data for Grand Junction, elevated PM₁₀ concentrations are observed during warm months (EPA 2013). In contrast, elevated PM_{2.5} concentrations tend to occur during cold months. Presumably PM₁₀ peaks are related to natural dust events while PM_{2.5} peaks are associated with temperature inversion and emissions from vehicles, road sanding, wood-burning stoves, and other open burning emissions. Wood-burning and open burning restriction program and vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program could relieve PM loadings into the atmosphere.

Most ULP activities would occur during daytime hours when air dispersion is favorable and thus potential impacts of these activities would be minimal associated with nighttime temperature inversion except for prolonged snow cover as the case is in wintertime high ozone. As discussed in the DPEIS, PM emissions from ULP activities are estimated to be a small fraction of those in three ULP counties total (up to 3.2%) and scattered over a wide area (about 50-mi stretch). As a result, these emissions from ULP lease tracts can slightly increase PM levels but become a minor contributor to total PM levels in the area.

L44-3 DOE has reviewed the analysis of air quality to assure that it is adequately comprehensive to provide a basis for informed, environmentally sound decision making.

This Final PEIS contains additional information about potential radon releases (see Sections 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5). DOE is required to meet Federal, state and local regulatory requirements for implementing DOE's preferred alternative. Mitigation measures have also been identified in this PEIS that would prevent or minimize potential impacts to air quality. Impacts to air quality from the range of reasonable alternatives for the ULP Program have been evaluated in Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1. Cumulative impacts to air quality and human health are discussed in Section 4.7. Controls are in place to mitigate health impacts on uranium mine workers. The PEIS evaluated potential risk to workers and members of the general public (on-site recreationist and off-site residents). This evaluation made use of state-of-the-art models and health science information recommended by the EPA to estimate the radon emission rates associated with mining operations and the primary health risks of concern, the latent life-time cancer risks, for such evaluations. DOE's analysis likely overestimates human health impacts because the emission estimates were based on conservative assumptions that would yield higher radiation exposures. The results discussed in the PEIS indicate that for the peak year scenarios described in the PEIS, when conducted in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, the identified mitigation measures can be implemented in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

L44-4 DOE has evaluated the potential impacts for 13 environmental resource areas (including air quality) and human health for the five alternatives considered to be the range of reasonable alternatives presented in the PEIS. DOE considers the evaluation to be adequate in supporting all five alternatives. See also discussion in Section I.3.2.

DOE has considered the results of the PEIS evaluation and the comments received on the Draft PEIS in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

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Cotter Corporation, Commenter ID No. L50



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June 28, 2013

Via U.S. Mail and E-mail ulpeis@anl.gov

Mr. Raymond Plieness
ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Re: Cotter Corporation (N.S.L.)'s Comments on the U.S. Department of Energy's Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Plieness:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Cotter Corporation (N.S.L.) ("Cotter") as part of the public comment process on the U.S. Department of Energy's ("DOE") draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement ("Draft PEIS"), dated March 2013. DOE requested comments on the Draft PEIS in its Notice of Availability of the Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement ("NOA"), dated March 15, 2013, and stated it would accept comments through May 16, 2013. 78 Fed. Reg. 16,483, 16,484 (March 15, 2013). Subsequently, DOE extended the deadline for submitting comments on the Draft PEIS to May 31, 2013, 78 Fed. Reg. 23,926 (April 23, 2013), and then to July 1, 2013. 78 Fed. Reg. 33,090 (June 3, 2013).

First of all, thank you for providing Cotter with this opportunity to submit comments on the Draft PEIS, and for the efforts DOE has made in studying the Uranium Leasing Program ("ULP"), analyzing its impacts, and preparing the Draft PEIS. DOE has dedicated extensive resources to this work, which is appreciated by Cotter.

Cotter is submitting these comments because it has a strong interest in the ULP, and supports the program's continuation. Cotter has been in the business of processing and mining uranium and vanadium since 1956. Important to Cotter's business is developing and operating its uranium/vanadium properties in western Colorado, which include mines on the following ULP lease tracts: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13A, 18, 21, and 25 ("Cotter Lease Tracts"). Cotter is the current lessee of these lease tracts. See Draft PEIS at Tables 1.2-1 and 2.2-2. As DOE is also aware, combined recoverable reserves at the Cotter Lease Tracts are substantial. See Draft PEIS at

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L50-1

L50-1

Comment noted. DOE has reviewed the comments submitted by Cotter Corporation, has incorporated the information from the EPPs and the recommended corrections to PEIS text (see Responses to L50-13 to L50-22, and L50-25 to L50-28).

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Table 1.2-2 (estimating 8,310,010 pounds of uranium ore reserves at the nine Cotter Lease Tracts). Without the ULP, those ore reserves would not be mined in the foreseeable future, which would deny Cotter, the United States, and the region substantial economic benefits, as well as the benefits of clean electricity generation and other uses. Moreover, for over 30 years, Cotter has invested considerable sums in its mines to extract resources, to develop and maintain mine facilities, to explore for and define ore resources, and to ensure future mining opportunities when metals prices recover. Those investments would be lost if DOE were to discontinue the ULP and terminate Cotter's leases.

Given Cotter's strong interest in the ULP, and the significant benefits that will accrue to the public, the economy, and the region if the ULP is continued, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE review these comments, and incorporate them into the PEIS and the administrative record for these proceedings. Cotter may supplement these comments as it obtains additional information through the environmental impact statement process.

Cotter's comments are organized in two sections. The first section contains comments that are of a general nature. The second section contains page-specific comments organized by page number of the Draft PEIS.

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

A. DOE Should Continue the ULP.

DOE's proposed action is to "decide whether to continue the ULP and, if it decides to continue the ULP, to determine which alternative to adopt in order to manage the ULP." Draft PEIS at 1-29. Compelling reasons exist to continue the ULP, as explained more fully below.

A threshold reason for continuing the ULP is to enable production of the substantial uranium and vanadium ore reserves remaining at the ULP's existing lease tracts. DOE estimates that 13.0 to 13.5 million pounds of uranium ore reserves remain at those lease tracts. Draft PEIS at Table 1.2-2, 2-32. It also estimates that over one-half of these reserves (8,310,010 pounds of uranium) exist at the Cotter Lease Tracts. *Id.* These estimates are supported by Cotter's own calculations showing millions of pounds of uranium and vanadium reserves at the Cotter Lease Tracts. Without the ULP, the remaining ore reserves would not be mined in the foreseeable future, which would result in a lost economic opportunity of substantial magnitude for Cotter, other mining companies, the public, the United States, and western Colorado. As to Cotter alone, the losses from terminating the ULP would be severe. Cotter would lose the future revenue from mining the millions of pounds of uranium and vanadium at the Cotter Lease Tracts. As indicated above, Cotter would also lose the opportunity to recover the substantial sums that it has invested in its mines over a period spanning more than 30 years. Forcing Cotter to incur these losses would be especially unfair given that Cotter has lease agreements with DOE covering each of the Cotter Lease Tracts, and is authorized by such lease agreements to mine and remove the uranium and vanadium at each lease tract. Draft PEIS at Table 1.2-1 and A-5 ("DOE does hereby lease the Property to the Lessee, for the purposes of exploring for, developing, mining, and removing deposits of uranium, vanadium, and associated minerals . . .").

L50-1
(Cont.)

L50-2

L50-2

DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS. DOE also notes the report that Cotter Corporation attached with its comment letter as Exhibit 1. DOE has read this 2013 report (*Critical Analysis of World Uranium Resources: U.S. Scientific Investigations Report 2012-5239 authored by Susan Hall and Margaret Coleman*), but has not included it with this Appendix to conserve resources. DOE has reviewed the attachment and has noted the excerpts included in the comment.

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Cotter has relied on these lease agreements in making its expenditures in the mines and in developing its business and permitting plans.

The public will benefit substantially from the continuation of the ULP. DOE joined recently with the U.S. Department of the Interior to analyze the world uranium supply and demand balance. Hall, Susan, and Coleman, Margaret, 2013, Critical Analysis of World Uranium Resources: U.S. Scientific Investigations Report 2012-5239 (attached hereto as Exhibit 1). The agencies found that "Global concerns about greenhouse gases, rising fossil-fuel prices, the need for additional energy in developing countries and energy security support the development of additional nuclear capacity." *Id.* at 10. However, the agencies also found that "mine development is proceeding too slowly to fully meet requirements for an expanded nuclear power reactor fleet in the near future (to 2035), and unless adequate secondary or unconventional resources can be identified, imbalances in supply and demand may occur." *Id.* at 1; *see also id.* at 33. The ULP contributes to the development of additional nuclear capacity and to reducing imbalances in uranium supply and demand. Conversely, terminating the ULP would undermine those objectives.

The benefits of continuing the ULP include reducing our country's dependence on foreign sources of uranium and thereby increasing its energy independence. Uranium has a critical role in power production in the United States, as approximately 20% of our nation's electricity comes from nuclear power plants. *Id.* at 9. DOE's Energy Information Administration explains: "Nuclear power plays an important role in U.S. electricity, with 101 gigawatts (GW) of capacity accounting for 19% of electricity generation in 2012." *See* U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Long-term outlook for nuclear generation depends on lifetime of existing capacity," dated April 25, 2013, available at <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=10991> (attached hereto as Exhibit 2). However, uranium is also a limited domestic resource, as the United States imports most of the uranium it uses. As explained in the above-referenced U.S. Scientific Investigations Report 2012-5239, "Following recent trends, most uranium purchased in the United States in 2009 (86 percent) originated from foreign producers, while 14 percent originated from U.S. mining operations . . ." U.S. Scientific Investigations Report 2012-5239 at 9. *See also* Colorado Geological Survey, "Energy Resources – Uranium," available at <http://geosurvey.state.co.us/energy/Uranium/Pages/Uranium.aspx> (last updated Sept. 19, 2012) (reporting that the United States is the "world's largest generator of nuclear power," but over 90% of our uranium must be imported) (attached hereto as Exhibit 3). Continuation of the ULP will make millions of pounds of domestically sourced, high-quality uranium available to our nation, and thereby reduce its dependence on foreign sources of this critical mineral. *See* Draft PEIS at 2-71 (reporting that, for Alternative 4, the DOE's preferred alternative, "approximately 480,000 tons/yr of uranium ore would be removed from the DOE ULP lease tracts for processing at the mills and ultimately used for various energy purposes.").

The ULP will create economic benefits for western Colorado and the nation. Depending on the alternative selected, DOE estimates that mining development and operational activities under the ULP would create direct employment of up to approximately 253 people during peak years and up to approximately 152 additional indirect jobs. Draft PEIS at 4-148, 4-205, 4-207, 4-245. Further, uranium mining under the ULP would produce millions of dollars in income. *Id.* These benefits will not occur if the ULP is terminated. The continuation of the ULP would also generate substantial

L50-2
(Cont.)

L50-3

L50-3 Comment noted. See Response to L50-2.

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royalties for the United States. While the Draft PEIS does not estimate the royalties that would be paid to the United States if existing ore reserves are mined, the dollar amount of such royalties should total in the millions. *See id.* at Table 1.1-1 (reporting that royalties generated from the production of 8.0 million pounds of uranium and 41.2 million pounds of vanadium in the DOE's previous three leasing programs totaled \$ 62.9 million). Conversely, no royalties would be paid if the ULP is terminated.

Another compelling reason for continuing the ULP is the recent licensing of the Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill in western Montrose County, Colorado. *See* Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, "Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill license application meets state regulatory requirements," dated April 25, 2013, available at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-Main/CBON/1251641879219> (attached hereto as Exhibit 4). With the construction of that mill, "[a] surge in uranium exploration, mining, and permitting is anticipated. . . ." Draft PEIS at 4-267. The mill is also expected to process ore from five to nine mines at any one time. *Id.* The economic benefits of this anticipated surge would be reduced substantially if the ULP is terminated and many of the feeder mines for the mill are thereby closed.

Based on the above, significant benefits will accrue to Cotter, other mining companies, the public, western Colorado, and our nation if the ULP is continued. Cotter therefore encourages DOE to continue that program.

B. Of the Alternatives Presented in the Draft PEIS, Cotter Supports Alternative 4 as the Final Preferred Alternative for the ULP.

The Draft PEIS analyzes five alternatives for managing the ULP. Under Alternative 1, DOE would terminate all leases of ULP lands, and all operations would be reclaimed by lessees, with DOE continuing to manage the ULP lands. Draft PEIS at 2-1, 2-17, 2-19. No uranium leasing of the ULP's 31 existing lease tracts would occur now or in the future under this alternative. *Id.* Alternative 2 is the same as Alternative 1, except once reclamation is completed by lessees, DOE would relinquish the lands for potential management by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") in accordance with 43 C.F.R. Part 2370. *Id.* at 2-1, 2-21. If the U.S. Department of the Interior and BLM then determine that the lands are suitable to be managed as public domain lands, they would be managed by BLM under its multiple use policies. *Id.* DOE's ULP would end. *Id.* However, private parties, such as Cotter, could establish new uranium mining claims under the 1872 mining law. *Id.* at 2-21. Under Alternative 3, DOE would continue the ULP as it existed before July 2007, with the 13 active leases (including the Cotter leases),¹ for the next ten-year period or for another reasonable period, and DOE would terminate the remaining ULP leases. *Id.* at 2-1, 2-21, 2-23. Under Alternative 4, DOE would continue the ULP with the 31 existing lease tracts for the next ten-year period or for another reasonable period. *Id.* at 2-1. This alternative assumes that all 31 lease tracts would be available in the future for potential exploration and mining of uranium ores. Draft PEIS at 2-27. Further, leases on

¹ The 13 leases before July 2007 were for lease tracts 5, 6, 7, 7A, 8, 9, 11, 13, 13A, 15, 18, 21, and 25. Draft PEIS at 2-21. Lease tracts 7 and 7A were subsequently combined into lease tract 7. *Id.* Accordingly, under Alternative 3, only 12 lease tracts would continue to exist. *Id.*

L50-3
(Cont.)

L50-4

L50-4

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

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the ULP lease tracts would be continued for the next ten years or for another reasonable period, as appropriate. *Id.* Alternative 5 is the “No Action Alternative” under which DOE would continue the ULP with the 31 existing lease tracts for the remainder of the ten-year period on existing leases, and the leases would continue exactly as they were issued in 2008. *Id.* at 2-1. DOE projects that, under Alternative 5, all existing ULP leases would expire in 2021. *Id.* at 2-31.

In the NOA, DOE states that its “preferred alternative” is Alternative 4. 78 Fed. Reg. at 16,485; *see also* Draft PEIS at 2-72 (same). Of the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, Cotter strongly supports Alternative 4 as the final preferred alternative for the ULP, and encourages DOE to select that alternative. Cotter’s reasons are identified below.

Alternative 4 best fulfills the underlying purpose and need for DOE action. Of the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, Alternative 4 best fulfills the “underlying purpose and need for agency action” identified in the Draft PEIS. This purpose and need is to “support the implementation of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097), which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium and to issue leases for the mining of uranium and other source materials to effectuate the provisions of the AEA, and the implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law [P.L.] 109-58), which emphasized the reestablishment of nuclear power (Sections 601 through 657).” Draft PEIS at 1-27, 1-29. Alternative 4 fulfills this purpose and need by continuing the ULP with the 31 existing lease tracts, and thereby allowing DOE to continue to “develop a supply of domestic uranium.” In contrast, terminating all ULP leases and ending DOE’s uranium leasing program, as contemplated under Alternatives 1 and 2, would not “support the implementation of the AEA, “develop a supply of domestic uranium,” “effectuate the provisions of the AEA,” or advance the “reestablishment of nuclear power.” Accordingly, those alternatives should not be selected. While Alternatives 3 and 5 would allow the ULP to continue in effect, they either limit the number of ULP leases that may remain in effect or restrict their duration. Those alternatives, therefore, do less to support the implementation of the AEA and to develop a supply of domestic uranium than does Alternative 4. For this reason, of the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, DOE should select Alternative 4 to manage the ULP.

Alternative 4 best protects all lessees’ rights in their ULP leases. As explained above and in the Draft PEIS, Cotter is the current lessee of nine lease tracts managed under the ULP. Draft PEIS at Table 1.2-1. Other mining companies have leased additional lease tracts managed under the ULP. *Id.* Although each of the ULP leases has been stayed by order of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado, *Colorado Environmental Coalition v. Office of Legacy Management*, 819 F. Supp. 2d 1193, 1224 (D. Colo. 2011), the leases have not been terminated and have years remaining before the lease terms expire. *See* Draft PEIS at 2-31, A-5, and A-29. Alternative 4 protects all lessees’ rights in their ULP leases by authorizing each of the leases to continue for the next ten years and then authorizing extensions of the leases. *Id.* at 2-27, 2-71 (“For Alternative 4, the leases would also likely be extended on a lease-by-lease basis.”). In contrast, Alternatives 1 and 2 do not protect

L50-4
(Cont.)

L50-5

L50-5 Same response as L50-4.

L50-6

L50-6 See response to L50-4.

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lessees' rights in their leases because they require that DOE prematurely terminate all ULP leases.² *Id.* at 2-1. Accordingly, DOE should not select those alternatives. Alternative 5 does not fully protect Cotter's and other lessees' rights in their ULP leases because it does not authorize extensions of the leases. *Id.* at 2-31, 2-71. Under Alternative 3, DOE would continue with exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation at the 13 ULP lease tracts for which leases existed prior to July 2007, but would terminate the leases on the remainder of the ULP lease tracts. *Id.* at 2-1, 2-21. Alternative 3 therefore falls short in protecting the rights of lessees holding such terminated leases. Of the five alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, Alternative 4 therefore best protects all lessees' rights in their ULP leases.

Alternative 4 allows Cotter and other lessees the opportunity to recover their investments. Cotter also supports Alternative 4 because it allows Cotter the opportunity to recover the substantial sums that it has invested in the Cotter Lease Tracts. For over 30 years, Cotter has invested such sums to: explore for and define ore resources; prepare the sites for mining; build and maintain mine and storm water structures; produce ore; and conduct other mine operations. More recently, Cotter has invested substantial sums in its lease tracts to satisfy the new permitting requirements of the State of Colorado, including preparing environmental protection plans ("EPPs"), drainage design plans, storm water management plans, mine plans, and other studies; collecting geologic and environmental data; and submitting Amendment Applications ("Amendments") to the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety ("Division"). Specifically, on September 30, 2011, the Division wrote to Cotter and requested that it submit EPPs and Amendments for its mines on the Cotter Lease Tracts by October 1, 2012. After hiring two engineering firms and spending considerable sums, Cotter timely complied with the Division's requests. This expense and effort continue as Cotter responds to the Division's adequacy review questions on the Amendments. By authorizing Cotter's ULP leases to continue in effect and to be extended, Alternative 4 allows Cotter the opportunity to recover its investments in the Cotter Lease Tracts.

In contrast to Alternative 4, each of Cotter's ULP leases would terminate under Alternatives 1 and 2. Those alternatives would therefore deny Cotter the opportunity to recover the substantial sums it has invested in the Cotter Lease Tracts, and should not be selected. Alternative 5 would limit Cotter's recovery of its investments because it would not authorize extensions of Cotter's ULP leases. Draft PEIS at 2-31, 2-71. Accordingly, Alternative 5 should not be selected. Under Alternative 3, DOE would continue with exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation at the 13 ULP lease tracts for which leases existed prior to July 2007, but would terminate the leases on the remainder of the ULP lease tracts. *Id.* at 2-1, 2-21. Alternative 3 therefore falls short in protecting the investments of lessees that hold such terminated leases.

² The Draft PEIS does not cite to legal authority that would authorize DOE to prematurely terminate the ULP leases in these circumstances. Cotter does not here concede that such authority exists, and reserves rights to challenge any attempt by DOE to prematurely terminate the Cotter leases.

L50-6
(Cont.)

L50-7

L50-7 See response to L50-4.

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Alternative 4 allows Cotter and other lessees the opportunity to recover the ore reserves at the ULP lease tracts. Cotter supports Alternative 4 because it allows Cotter the opportunity to recover the substantial uranium and vanadium reserves at the Cotter Lease Tracts. As explained above and in the Draft PEIS, DOE estimates that those lease tracts contain 8,310,010 pounds of uranium ore reserves. Draft PEIS at Table 1.2-2. The vanadium ore reserves in the Cotter Lease Tracts are also substantial. By authorizing each of Cotter's ULP leases to remain in effect for ten years and to be extended, Alternative 4 allows Cotter the opportunity to recover such ore reserves.

Alternatives 1 and 2 would not allow recovery of any additional ore reserves, as all ULP leases would terminate under those alternatives. The economic harm from such lost opportunity would be significant. Accordingly, those alternatives should not be selected.

Alternative 5 would restrict Cotter's ability to recover the ore reserves at its lease tracts. Under Alternative 5, the lease period for a given lease is the remainder of the ten-year period in the lease with no extensions of the lease possible. Draft PEIS at 2-31, 2-71. Due to the shorter lease period, the number of years available for mining operations and ore generation under Alternative 5 (DOE assumes five years) is considerably less than under Alternative 4 (DOE assumes an "operational period" of ten years with extensions likely on a lease-by-lease basis). *Id.* at 2-25, 2-29, 2-71, 2-72. If restricted to the shorter lease period, Cotter would likely not have sufficient time to exhaust all ore reserves in its mines, and could be required to prematurely shut down mine activities and to commence termination and reclamation. DOE recognized this potential limitation in its discussion of why it preferred Alternative 4 over Alternative 5. *See* Draft PEIS at 2-72 (recognizing that the shorter period of time for mining operations and ore generation associated with Alternative 5 could mean that the ore in some of the mines might not be exhausted by the time the leases expired). Accordingly, Alternative 4 should be selected over Alternative 5.

Alternative 3 allows Cotter the opportunity to recover uranium and vanadium reserves at the Cotter Lease Tracts. Alternative 3 would nonetheless deny other mining companies, and thereby the State and the country, the opportunity to obtain the benefits of mining the ore reserves at their lease tracts if a ULP lease for that tract did not exist before July 2007. In that latter case, DOE would terminate the existing lease. Draft PEIS at 2-21.

Alternative 4 will benefit the public. Of the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, Alternative 4 will do the most to benefit the public. As explained above, DOE joined recently with the U.S. Department of the Interior to analyze the world uranium supply and demand balance, and found that "Global concerns about greenhouse gases, rising fossil-fuel prices, the need for additional energy in developing countries and energy security support the development of additional nuclear capacity." U.S. Scientific Investigations Report 2012-5239 at 10 (attached hereto as Exhibit 1). However, the agencies also found that "mine development is proceeding too slowly to fully meet requirements for an expanded nuclear power reactor fleet in the near future (to 2035), and unless adequate secondary or unconventional resources can be identified, imbalances in supply and demand may occur." *Id.* at 1; *see also id.* at 33. Alternative 4 contributes to the development of additional nuclear capacity and to reducing imbalances in uranium supply and demand by continuing the ULP

L50-8

L50-8

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L50-9

L50-9

See response to L50-8.

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with the 31 lease tracts. Conversely, terminating all or a portion of the ULP leases, as would be true under Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, would undermine those objectives.

Alternative 4 would also reduce our country's dependence on foreign sources of uranium. As explained above, nuclear power accounts for about 20% of domestic U.S. generation of electricity. *Id.* at 9. Despite this significant reliance on nuclear power, most of our country's uranium is imported. *Id.*; see also Colorado Geological Survey, "Energy Resources – Uranium," available at <http://geosurvey.state.co.us/energy/Uranium/Pages/Uranium.aspx> (last updated Sept. 19, 2012) (attached hereto as Exhibit 3). While this imbalance in uranium supply has not become a "significant problem," it "could soon become a problem as more nuclear power plants are built around the world, as world supplies become more constrained, and as prices of uranium rise." Colorado Geological Survey, "Energy Resources – Uranium," available at <http://geosurvey.state.co.us/energy/Uranium/Pages/Uranium.aspx> (last updated Sept. 19, 2012) (attached hereto as Exhibit 3). By authorizing all ULP leases to continue, and thereby encouraging additional domestic uranium production, Alternative 4 would reduce our country's dependence on foreign sources of uranium.

Alternative 4 would also create economic benefits for western Colorado and our nation. Mining development and operational activities under Alternative 4 would create direct employment of 229 people during peak years and 152 additional indirect jobs. Draft PEIS at 2-49, 4-205, 4-207. Further, uranium mining under Alternative 4 would produce \$14.8 million in income. *Id.* These benefits will not occur if all ULP leases are terminated, as contemplated by Alternatives 1 and 2. Alternative 4 would also generate substantial royalties for the United States. Conversely, no royalties would be paid if all ULP leases are terminated and the ULP is terminated.

Summary. Of the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, DOE should select Alternative 4 to manage the ULP. Alternative 4 best fulfills the purpose and need of the proposed action. Further, it would authorize each of the ULP leases to continue in effect and to be extended, and thereby would best preserve all lessees' rights in their ULP leases, and allow Cotter and other ULP lessees an opportunity to recover their investments in the ULP leases. It would also best allow Cotter and other ULP lessees an opportunity to exhaust the ore reserves at the ULP lease tracts. Such operations would also benefit the public interest by supporting the development of additional nuclear capacity, reducing our country's dependence on foreign sources of uranium, and creating economic benefits for western Colorado and our nation.

C. Cotter's EPPs Contain Measures to Minimize Potential Impacts from ULP Mining Activities.

Cotter is committed to conducting exploration on, and mining, the Cotter Lease Tracts in an environmentally sound manner. To the extent environmental impacts may arise, the Draft PEIS identifies ways they can be minimized or eliminated such as through "compliance measures, mitigation measures, or best management practices . . ." Draft PEIS at 2-33, 4-251 to 4-265. DOE expects such measures and practices to minimize or reduce the potential impacts identified in the Draft PEIS. Draft PEIS at 4-251, 4-304.

L50-9
(Cont.)

L50-10

L50-10 See response to L50-8

L50-11

L50-11 Site-specific information provided in the EPPs prepared by Cotter Corporation has been incorporated into the PEIS. See Section 1.3 for a summary.

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In its discussion of compliance measures, DOE recognizes that the Division requires uranium mining companies to obtain permits for their mining operations and to submit and follow an EPP. *Id.* at 4-264. In these EPPs, “[r]unoff and run-on are specifically addressed on a site-by-site basis, as are issues concerning hydrology and reestablishment of vegetation.” *Id.* DOE’s discussion nonetheless does not analyze or otherwise reference any specific EPP that Cotter or other lessees have submitted to the Division to protect any of the ULP lease tracts and related resources.

L50-11
(Cont.)

For each of the Cotter Lease Tracts, Cotter has submitted to the Division an EPP and related measures in compliance with Colorado’s Hard Rock/Metal Mining rules for protection of the environment. The EPPs evaluate the potential impacts of Cotter’s future mining activities on the environment, and propose measures to minimize or eliminate those impacts. In addition to the EPPs, Cotter has submitted drainage design plans, storm water management plans, geotechnical stability reports, emergency response plans, and other relevant studies, data, and maps. Cotter procured this information at great expense and effort, and believes the implementation of these plans will protect the environment and human health.

Cotter’s EPPs and related plans and studies support DOE’s expectation that the compliance measures, mitigation measures, and best management practices identified in the Draft PEIS will minimize or reduce the potential impacts identified in the Draft PEIS. *See* Draft PEIS at 4-251, 4-304. Thus, the impacts referenced in Chapters 2 and 4 of the Draft PEIS serve as an upper bound of potential impacts arising from the ULP. Actual impacts should be less and, in certain cases, will be negligible or non-existent. DOE confirms this point in its discussion of cumulative impacts:

L50-12

L50-12 See response to L50-11. The site-specific information presented in EPPs prepared by Cotter Corporation is consistent with input information used in the analyses for the PEIS.

[t]he potential incremental impacts of the five alternatives are based on conservative assumptions and mostly do not take credit for measures (compliance measures, mitigation measures, and BMPs) that would minimize the potential impacts. Hence, it is expected that the potential incremental impacts of the ULP would be less than those summarized in Table 4.7-12, since such measures would be implemented as required by project-specific mine plans and permits. For this reason, the overall incremental impact of the ULP alternatives is expected to be negligible.

Id. at 4-312 n.7.

II. PAGE-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Chapter 1

Page 1-13, Section 1.2.3, Paragraph 1.

Comment. Section 1.2.3 provides site-specific information on eight of the 31 lease tracts where “existing permitted mines” are located. These lease tracts are identified in the Draft PEIS as 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 18. Cotter wishes to clarify that permitted mines also exist on lease tracts 13A, 21, and 25. While land has been reclaimed at those lease tracts, Cotter’s reclamation permits for the SR-13A Mine, LP-21 Mine, and CM-25 Mine are effective and in good standing with the Division.

L50-13

L50-13 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment. Same for next 9 comments.

Cotter Corporation, Commenter ID No. L50 (Cont.)

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Page 1-16, Section 1.2.3.2, Paragraph 3.

Comment. The third sentence of paragraph three in section 1.2.3.2 reports that "Production [at the JD-6 Mine] continued through November 2005, at which time mining was suspended and the mine was placed on standby status." Cotter respectfully submits that mining was not suspended at the JD-6 Mine in November 2005. Cotter continued to ship ore from the JD-6 Mine in 2006, and the mine was regulated as intermittently active up to December 15, 2012. Cotter also did not place the JD-6 Mine on standby status in November 2005. Accordingly, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the third sentence of paragraph three in section 1.2.3.2 with the following: "Production and/or ore shipments from the mine continued into 2006."

L50-14

L50-14 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 1-18, Section 1.2.3.3, Paragraph 2.

Comment. With respect to the JD-7 underground mine, the final sentence of paragraph two in section 1.2.3.3 reports "This work continued through November 2005, at which time development activities were suspended and the mine was placed on standby status." Cotter respectfully submits that development activities were not suspended at the JD-7 underground mine in November 2005. Cotter built storm water catchment ponds and diversion ditches at the mine in 2011, and the mine was regulated as intermittently active to December 15, 2012. Cotter also did not place the JD-7 underground mine on standby status in November 2005. Accordingly, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the final sentence of paragraph two in section 1.2.3.3 with the following: "This work continued through November 2005."

L50-15

L50-15 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 1-18, Section 1.2.3.3, Paragraph 3.

Comment. To provide a more complete summary of mining activity at the JD-7 Pit Mine, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE insert the following sentence immediately prior to the final sentence of paragraph 3 in section 1.2.3.3: "Mining activities subsequently resumed at the mine, which included in-pit development drilling from 1991 through 1993 and 1996 through 2004, and other activities through the third quarter of 2011."

L50-16

L50-16 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 1-20, Section 1.2.3.4, Paragraph 2.

Comment. With respect to the JD-8 Mine, the fifth sentence of paragraph 2 in section 1.2.3.4 reports "The first ore shipment from the [JD-8] mine was made in June 2005 and production continued through November 2005, at which time mining was suspended and the mine was placed on standby status." Cotter respectfully submits that mining was not suspended at the JD-8 Mine in November 2005. Cotter continued to ship ore from the JD-8 Mine in 2006, and additional mining activities were subsequently conducted at the mine. Further, Cotter did not place the JD-8 Mine on standby status in November 2005. Accordingly, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the fifth sentence of paragraph 2 in section 1.2.3.4 with the following: "The first ore shipment from the mine was made in June 2005, and production and/or ore shipments continued into 2006."

L50-17

L50-17 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

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Page 1-23, Section 1.2.3.5, Paragraph 1.

Comment. With respect to the JD-9 Mine, the third sentence of the first paragraph on page 1-23 reports "Mine production activities continued through November 2005, at which time mining was suspended and the mine was placed on standby status." Cotter respectfully submits that mining was not suspended at the JD-9 Mine in November 2005. Cotter continued to ship ore from the JD-9 Mine in 2006, and additional mining activities were conducted at the mine in 2011. The Division also regulated the mine as intermittently active up to December 15, 2012. Further, Cotter did not place the JD-9 Mine on standby status in November 2005. Accordingly, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the third sentence of the first paragraph on page 1-23 with the following: "The mine continued to produce and/or ship ore into 2006."

L50-18

L50-18 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 1-23, Section 1.2.3.6, Paragraph 3.

Comment. With respect to the SR-11 Mine, the third and fourth sentences of paragraph three in section 1.2.3.6 report "Mine development work [at the SR-11 Mine] began almost immediately and continued through November 2005, at which time mining activities were suspended and the mine was placed on standby status. At that time, the decline had been advanced approximately 250 ft (76 m)." Cotter respectfully submits that mining activities were not suspended at the SR-11 Mine in November 2005. Mining activities were conducted at the mine in 2010 and 2011, and the mine was regulated as intermittently active up to December 15, 2012. Cotter also did not place the SR-11 Mine on standby status in November 2005. Further, as of November 2005, the decline at the SR-11 Mine had been advanced approximately 300 feet. Accordingly, to provide a more complete summary of mining activity at the SR-11 Mine, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the third and fourth sentences of paragraph three in section 1.2.3.6 with the following: "Mine development work began almost immediately and continued through November 2005. At that time, the decline had been advanced approximately 300 feet."

L50-19

L50-19 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 1-27, Section 1.2.3.8, Paragraph 2.

Comment. With respect to the SM-18 Mine, the sixth and seventh sentences of paragraph two in section 1.2.3.8 report "The mine was placed on standby status and remained so until October 2000. At that time, Cotter submitted a reclamation plan for a portion of its mining operations on Lease Tract 18." To provide a more complete summary of mining activity at the SM-18 Mine, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the sixth and seventh sentences of paragraph two in section 1.2.3.8 with the following: "The mine was placed on standby status and remained so until 1990 when its permit status was revised to intermittently active. In October 2000, Cotter submitted a reclamation plan for a portion of its mining operations on Lease Tract 18."

L50-20

L50-20 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 1-27, Section 1.2.3.8, Paragraph 3.

Comment. The fourth sentence of paragraph three in section 1.2.3.8 reports "Mining [at the SM-18 Mine] was suspended in November 2005 and the mine was placed on standby status." Cotter respectfully submits that mining activity was not suspended at the SM-18 Mine in November 2005.

L50-21

L50-21 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

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Cotter continued to produce and/or ship ore from the mine in 2006, and additional mining activities were conducted at the mine in 2011. The Division has also regulated the mine as intermittently active into 2013. Further, Cotter did not place the SM-18 Mine on standby status in November 2005. Accordingly, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the fourth sentence of paragraph 3 in section 1.2.3.8 with the following: "These shipments of lease tract ore from the mine continued into 2006."

L50-21
(Cont.)

Chapter 2

Page 2-19, Section 2.2.1, Note b.

Comment. The first sentence of note b on page 2-19 reports "In early November 2005, when the mine on Lease Tract 11 was shut down, Cotter Corporation had disturbed just less than 5 acres (2 ha) and had advanced the decline approximately 330 ft (100 m)." Cotter respectfully submits that mining activities were not shut down at the SR-11 Mine in November 2005. Mining activities were conducted at the mine in 2010 and 2011, and the mine was regulated as intermittently active up to December 15, 2012. Further, as of November 2005, the decline at the SR-11 Mine had been advanced approximately 300 feet. Accordingly, to provide a more complete summary of mining activity at the SR-11 Mine, Cotter respectfully requests that DOE replace the first sentence of note b with the following: "In early November 2005, when construction of the decline was temporarily suspended, Cotter Corporation had disturbed just less than 5 acres (2 ha) and had advanced the decline approximately 300 ft (91 m)."

L50-22

L50-22 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Page 2-48, Section 2.4.6.4, Paragraph 2.

Comment. This paragraph reports that ULP activities under Alternative 3 "are likely to adversely affect" and "would likely adversely affect" the Colorado River endangered fish species and their critical habitat. These statements appear to be inconsistent with pages 2-65, 4-133 to 4-135, and 4-144, which report that ULP activities under Alternative 3 "are not likely to adversely affect" the Colorado River endangered fish species and their critical habitat. Please clarify DOE's position on this issue.

L50-23

L50-23 PEIS text has been revised in the pertinent sections in Chapter 2 and 4 consistent with the BA and BO (see Appendix E for the BA and BO).

Page 2-65, Table 2.4-7.

Comment. The summary of Alternative 3's impacts on "Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species" reports that "ULP activities under Alternative 3 may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, the Colorado River endangered fish species and their critical habitat." As explained above, DOE's statement appears to be inconsistent with DOE's statements on page 2-48, section 2.4.6.4, paragraph 2, which report that ULP activities under Alternative 3 "are likely to adversely effect" and "would likely adversely affect" the Colorado River endangered fish species and their critical habitat. Please clarify DOE's position on this issue.

L50-24

L50-24 See response to L50-23.

Cotter Corporation, Commenter ID No. L50 (Cont.)

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Chapter 3

Page 3-189, Section 3.7.4.1, Table 3.7-5.

Comment. The permit status of the LP-21, JD-9, JD-7, JD-6, SR-13A, SR-11, JD-7 Pit, and JD-8 Mines has recently changed to temporary cessation. By order dated May 7, 2013, the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board ("MLRB") accepted Cotter's Notices of Temporary Cessation for the LP-21, JD-9, JD-7 (includes JD-7 Pit and JD-7 Underground), JD-6, SR-13A, and SR-11 Mines. On May 15, 2013, the MLRB accepted Cotter's Notice of Temporary Cessation for the JD-8 Mine.

L50-25

L50-25 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Chapter 4

Page 4-170, Section 4.3.11.2, Paragraph 1.

Comment. The tenth and eleventh sentences in paragraph one of section 4.3.11.2 report "Of the lease tracts that would continue under Alternative 3, eight (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 18) have existing permitted mines. There are nine mines in these eight tracts." Cotter respectfully submits that lease tracts 13A, 21, and 25 also have existing permitted mines. While land has been reclaimed at those mines, Cotter's reclamation permits for the SR-13A Mine, LP-21 Mine, and CM-25 Mine are effective and in good standing with the Division.

L50-26

L50-26 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Also, the thirteenth sentence of section 4.3.11.2 reports "At three lease tracts (13A, 21, and 25), exploratory drilling has been completed and land has been reclaimed, but there are no permitted mines." For the reason discussed above, the clause "but there are no permitted mines" should be deleted from DOE's statement.

Page 4-170, Section 4.3.11.2.1, Paragraph 1.

Comment. The third sentence of this section reports "The eight lease tracts with existing permitted mines are already served by access roads." This sentence appears to exclude lease tracts 13A, 21, and 25, and should be revised to include those lease tracts.

L50-27

L50-27 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment

Also, the sixth sentence of this section reports "The remaining four lease tracts (13A, 15, 21, and 25) have been subjected to exploratory drilling and past mining but lack permitted mines." This sentence should be revised to reflect that lease tracts 13A, 21, and 25 have permitted mines.

Page 4-171, Section 4.3.11.2.2, Paragraph 1.

Comment. The first sentence of this section reports "As discussed above, mines already exist in eight of the lease tracts that could continue under Alternative 3, whereas only exploration and past mining has occurred in the remaining three lease tracts." This sentence should be revised to reflect that lease tracts 13A, 21, and 25 have permitted mines.

L50-28

L50-28 This section of the PEIS has been revised per comment.

Cotter Corporation, Commenter ID No. L50 (Cont.)

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III. SUMMARY

For all the above reasons, Cotter supports DOE's continuation of the Uranium Leasing Program. Of the alternatives presented in the Draft PEIS, Cotter also supports Alternative 4 as the final preferred alternative for the ULP. Further, Cotter's EPPs and related plans and studies support DOE's expectation that the compliance measures, mitigation measures, and best management practices identified in the Draft PEIS will minimize or reduce the potential impacts identified in the Draft PEIS.

If DOE has any questions regarding these comments, please call me at 303-866-0645.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Tuchman

enclosures

L50-29

L50-29

DOE notes Cotter Corporation's support of Alternative 4 which is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS. The EPPs prepared by Cotter Corporation have been reviewed and information from them incorporated into the site- or lease tract-specific evaluation and discussion included in this PEIS.

Curecanti Medical Society, Commenter ID No. L45

July 1, 2013

Mr. Ray Plieness
DOE PEIS Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

RE: ULP Draft PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

This letter is being written on behalf of the Curecanti Medical Society, which represents over 80 physicians in the Montrose County area. It has come to our attention that further uranium mining is being considered for Montrose County, and the health risks of such an endeavor outweigh any benefits from a medical standpoint. It is more prudent medically to create jobs in other industries, especially renewable energy such as solar, wind, and geothermal, than to further develop nuclear power.

Uranium mining poses a grave danger to its workers, particularly if these workers smoke tobacco. The combination of uranium dust and smoking intensifies the risk of lung cancer tremendously. Furthermore, despite the best efforts made to control radioactive contamination at the site, accidents happen and the breach of containment over time is very possible. This would threaten groundwater, leading to increased risks of many cancers including thyroid especially. Radiation exposures are cumulative, and the community members will take any increased radiation exposure with them, sometimes not leading to lymphoma and leukemia for decades after the injury. Furthermore, radioactive contamination increases the risk of birth defects and genetic abnormalities, threatening the unborn in their developmental stages. Nuclear power plants have their own risks as recently witnessed in Japan at the Fukushima site, especially for those living downwind.

We oppose any mining of uranium as a result. We would suggest that the County Commissioners attract cleaner industries to our area that will not threaten our local environment for decades or even centuries to come. Solar and wind energy are inexhaustible resources for power generation and should be utilized. More jobs would be created over the long term in renewable energy industries than uranium mining, and the health of the workers as well as other members of the community both near and far would be protected as a result.

Best regards,

Patrick D. O'Meara, DO
President, Curecanti Medical Society, Montrose Memorial Hospital
800 S 3rd St, Montrose, CO 81401, 970-249-636

L45-1

L45-1 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

L45-2

L45-2 Controls are in place to mitigate health impacts on uranium mine workers. The PEIS evaluated potential risk to workers and members of the general public (on-site recreationist and off-site residents). This evaluation made use of state-of-the-art models and health science information recommended by the EPA to estimate the radon emission rates associated with mining operations and the primary health risks of concern, the latent life-time cancer risks, for such evaluations. DOE's analysis likely overestimates human health impacts because the emission estimates were based on conservative assumptions that would yield higher radiation exposures. The results discussed in the PEIS indicate that for the peak year scenarios described in the PEIS, when conducted in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, the identified mitigation measures can be implemented in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

L45-3

L45-3 See response to L45-1.

Department of the Interior, Commenter ID No. L38



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Denver Federal Center, Building 67, Room 118
Post Office Box 25007 (D-108)
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007



IN REPLY REFER TO

May 29, 2013

9043.1
ER 13/157

Raymond Plieness
ULP PEIS Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

RE: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) Department of Energy (DOE),
Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft ULP PEIS)
(DOE/EIS-0472D), Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel Counties, Colorado

Dear Mr Plieness:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the subject document and offers the following comments for your consideration.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no comments on the document, and advises that their concerns will be addressed through the Endangered Species Act consultation process.

The Bureau of Land Management has already provided a number of technical/editorial comments directly in their capacity as a cooperating agency. These comments are hereby incorporated into the Department of the Interior's comments.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Stewart
Regional Environmental Officer

L38-1

L38-1

Comment noted. DOE appreciates the effort by DOI as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process. See L33-1 to L33-5 for BLM comments and responses.

Dolores River Coalition, Commenter ID No. L46

The Dolores River Coalition

July 1, 2013

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminister, CO 80021

Sent via email to: ulpeis@anl.gov

ATTN: DOE ULP Draft PEIS Comments

Dear Mr. Plieness:

The Dolores River Coalition is a group of eighteen local, regional, state, and national groups working for comprehensive management and protections in the Dolores River Corridor and watershed. Uniting our coalition is our shared-principle that the Dolores River Basin is a unique national resource with significant ecological systems, cultural values, and recreational opportunities. Included in this letter are the coalition's general and collective areas of concern specific to the Dolores watershed. Individual organizations within our coalition will also be submitting comments that focus on the greater field office.

The Dolores River corridor is a signature landscape, and is the nexus of many collaborative stakeholder and agency processes. Dolores River Coalition members and affiliates have been actively involved with these various processes and collaborations including the Dolores River Dialogue and the Lower Dolores Working Group, the San Juan Public Lands SEIS and Land Use Plan, the Gothic Shale Master Leasing Plan, the DOI's Lands with Wilderness Character Inventories, the Wild and Scenic Rivers suitability determination process, and the BLM's various Resource Management Plan Revisions throughout the basin. Some of our member groups have also been involved in the San Miguel Gunnison Sage-Grouse working Group. Through these processes, we have been involved in land management decisions within the greater project area, and have advocated for responsible use of the land to preserve ecological, cultural, and recreational values.

The Uranium Leasing Program falls within the Dolores River corridor, an iconic and ecologically rich tributary of the Colorado River, and land management decisions in the Dolores River corridor affect the greater Colorado Plateau. The Uranium Leasing Program is thus a significant project that deems deep consideration. Following are areas of concern for our coalition.

Impacts to Native Fish

One of our primary concerns relates to native fish species. Native fish, including the Roundtail chub, the Bluehead sucker, and the Flannelmouth sucker, are species of concern in the Dolores River Basin and have been found to be outstandingly remarkable values associated with Wild and Scenic suitability. As part of a legislative effort on the portion of the river between the base of McPhee Dam and the town of Bedrock, an Implementation

L46-1

L46-1 The roundtail chub, bluehead sucker, and flannelmouth sucker are species listed as sensitive by the BLM and FS. These species are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 3.6.4.2 and Tables 3.6-21, 4.1-10, and 4.3-8. Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining on the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. These measures include measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to waterbodies and aquatic habitats for aquatic biota such as these fish species (M-4). PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

Dolores River Coalition, Commenter ID No. L46 (Cont.)

The Dolores River Coalition

Team has been underway since 2011 to create a plan for management of the three species. While threats have been identified, mitigation efforts have not been addressed in the Draft PEIS. Without a proper understanding of mitigation efforts, we cannot respond accurately to the range of alternatives. The USFWS' biological assessment (BA) has not been included in the PEIS. Without this analysis, the PEIS is incomplete. "No direct" or "indirect" impacts are indicated in the PEIS, yet without the BA, we cannot agree with this finding, and would like to see the BA before a determination is made for a preferred alternative. While the consultation section indicates that "the USFWS does not enter into formal consultation until a preferred alternative has been identified" (Draft ULP PEIS, 6-3), we believe that an additional draft-level comment period is necessary to address issues related to rare, sensitive, and endangered species. The Draft PEIS is premature and incomplete without this analysis.

L46-1
(Cont.)

While the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado required the DOE to prepare an EIS, based on concerns around threatened and endangered species, the Range of Alternatives does not address mitigation efforts for these species. For instance, it is not clear how the recent FWS intervention and finding of impact to the Colorado River Fish is going to be handled. The Draft PEIS indicates "Water quality as it relates to the listed fish species is being evaluated in the BA" (Draft ULP PEIS, 6-4), but this needs to be made available for public review and comment prior to a final decision. The threats to endangered species have been identified, and are dire, but mitigation efforts have not been discussed. Again, without a complete discussion on how to mitigate adverse affects, the PEIS is not complete.

Potential threats to the bonytail chub that may be associated with ULP activities include impacts to water quality and water withdrawals. Uranium mining can contaminate surrounding water with high levels of ammonia and uranium, which can bioaccumulate in fish species (Karp and Metzler 2006; Fresques 2008; Metzler et al. 2008). The toxicity of uranium mine tailings has been shown to be devastating to aquatic life in the Colorado River system (USFWS 1990). The effects of ammonium include reduced growth rate, reduced gamete production, body deformities and malformations, and degenerative gill and kidney appearance and function. Mining activities may also increase the amount of sediment in the river (Leyda 2011). A catastrophic tailings pile failure could bury important nursery areas and destroy other fish habitat. Water depletions associated with uranium mining might contribute to the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat for the bonytail chub (USFWS 2011e). Other threats include stream alteration, competition with and predation by introduced species, and pollution" (Draft ULP PEIS, E-7).

L46-2

L46-2 Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining on the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. These measures include measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to waterbodies and aquatic habitats for aquatic biota (M-4). The Biological Assessment (BA) prepared for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA includes the same measures for ESA-listed fish species as presented in Table 4.6-1. The USFWS issued a Biological Opinion (BO) in August 2013. The BA and the BO are presented in Appendix E of this PEIS. PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

Other Species of Concern

The Dolores River corridor also provides habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse, big horn sheep, and threatened river otter, as well as sensitive plant species. While threats to these species were discussed in the PEIS, mitigation efforts were not addressed. We feel this analysis is inadequate as surface disturbance, including erosion and increased sedimentation, noise, and other factors will impact species. Further, there is no consideration made to protect endangered or threatened species existing in the Uranium Leasing Program area.

L46-3

L46-3 Information on the Gunnison sage-grouse is provided in Sections 3.6.4, 4.1.6.4, and 4.3.6.4. As discussed in these sections, potentially suitable habitat for this species may occur in several lease tracts. However, based on information provided by industry and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the species has not been recorded on any of the lease tracts. On January 11, 2013, the USFWS proposed to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species under the ESA. At that time, the USFWS proposed to designate 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for the species. The most recent available information for the Gunnison sage-grouse, including updated geospatial data pertaining to the species' critical habitat, has been incorporated to the PEIS. Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1.

Information on the desert bighorn sheep is provided in Section 3.6.2.3 of the PEIS. As evident from Table 3.6-15 in that section, the ULP lease tracts encompass only a small portion of the desert bighorn sheep activity areas within the three-county ULP study area. Potential impacts on bighorn sheep are addressed in Section 4.3.6.2 of the PEIS. DOE did consult with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) regarding the desert bighorn sheep during the preparation of the PEIS. It is expected that the CPW would have been and will continue to be consulted when EPPs are prepared for individual mines developed as part of the ULP. Desert bighorn sheep habitat protection or offsite habitat enhancement may also be conditions of permits and lease requirements for mine sites.

Dolores River Coalition, Commenter ID No. L46 (Cont.)

The Dolores River Coalition

We also have specific concerns about potential impacts to Gunnison sage-grouse. The Uranium Leasing Program area includes proposed Gunnison sage-grouse critical habitat in the area of Lease Tract 17 (1 and 2). Although the PEIS was released after the Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) published their proposed rule to protect Gunnison sage-grouse through the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on January 10, 2013, the PEIS does not address the proposed listing. As noted in this proposed ESA rule, species recovery will require consideration of potential habitat beyond occupied habitat in order to link and expand subpopulations. We encourage the DOE not to move forward with new projects in or near critical habitat prior to the designation of critical habitat and a clear understanding with FWS regarding elements in a recovery plan.

Desert bighorn sheep, which are found in only three areas on the Western Slope of Colorado, have been identified as a priority management species for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The Dolores River corridor includes habitat for desert bighorn sheep, and the greater area has been a successful desert bighorn transplant site for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Slick Rock area is known for desert bighorn, and lease tracts 13, 13A, 14 (1,2, and 3), 15, 15a, 16, and 16a could all potentially affect desert bighorn habitat and activity. The DOE needs to work closely with CPW to mitigate impacts to desert bighorn sheep including actions that may impact their behavior and affect lambing activities, movement corridors, and access to water sources.

Water Resources

The Dolores River Coalition has been actively involved in water quality and flows efforts in the Lower Dolores River basin. Many collaborative efforts are at pivotal management points for improving native fish and riparian habitat. Further, a 319 Watershed Plan is in the final stages of development. The draft PEIS has not adequately addressed measures and methods to mitigate impacts to water resources. Several claims fall directly on the Dolores River and already threaten the river due to lack of adequate of clean up from previous activity. These claims (13, 13A, and 14-1, 2, and 3) should be prioritized for thorough remediation and withdrawn from the program.

Surface water in the Upper Dolores, San Miguel, and Lower Dolores watersheds and groundwater in the bedrock aquifers within Paradox Basin, along with alluvial aquifers in the various canyons were identified in the PEIS as water resources, though impacts to these resources were not thoroughly listed, and mitigation was again not addressed. Impacts to stream flow require further explanation. Minimal to moderate impacts to stream flow in the Dolores River could result in significant implications to the current efforts for improvements to native fish habitat and riparian restoration. As indicated in the draft, flows are regulated by the Dolores project, however specific flow regimes for native fish and recreation are also dependent on the natural downstream hydrograph that are part of the calculations for improving downstream habitat. Climatic changes may further exacerbate the effects in the coming decades, as identified in the Bureau of Land Management's Rapid Ecoregional Assessment of the Colorado Plateau. A twenty percent decrease in runoff due to seasonal shifts has been identified in the draft PEIS, along with

L46-3
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L46-4 Those ecological resources of outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) discussed in the comment that are either listed under the ESA, listed as sensitive by the BLM or FS, or listed as threatened or endangered by the State of Colorado are evaluated in the Draft PEIS (see Tables 3.6-21, 4.1-10, and 4.3-8). Assumptions on water usage and source are discussed in Section 2.2 (Tables 2.2-3, 2.2-5, and 2.2-7). These assumptions are consistent with site-specific information for ULP uranium past mining activities and EPPs prepared for some of the lease tracts. Follow-on NEPA reviews would address specific water needs, as appropriate.

Based on the state data, currently no impacts to streams were identified from the Lease Tracts. In addition, site-specific conditions for the Slick Rock tract are described in the EPP prepared by Cotter Corporation for Lease Tract 13A, and have been incorporated into the analyses done for the PEIS.

Because the Slick Rock UMTRCA processing site is located on Lease Tract 13A, data obtained for that project is discussed here. While alluvial groundwater data from the Slick Rock UMTRCA site indicate groundwater contamination, surface water data do not indicate contamination to the Dolores River due to the site. That is, surface water sampling results for the 2012 monitoring period demonstrated essentially no impact to the Dolores River from historical milling activities. CDPHE water quality benchmarks for nitrates, selenium, and uranium were not exceeded; one sample for manganese slightly exceeded the benchmark (.055 mg/L versus CDPHE benchmark of 0.05 mg/L). This particular sample was highly turbid; the data point is also observed to be anomalous relative to historical data. This information can be found in the *Verification Monitoring Report for the Slick Rock, Colorado, Processing Sites* dated April 2013.

The potential impacts on water quantity may include increased surface runoff, reduced groundwater recharge, and dewatering to the mines. As discussed in the PEIS (see Section 4.3.4), the groundwater loss to mines is limited to a few wet mines including Lease Tracts 7, 9, and 13.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L46-4

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The Dolores River Coalition

the mention of reduced runoff from uranium mining and milling, with the associated implications to the recharge rates of the aquifer, but measures to mitigate impacts from uranium development have not been addressed.

There is only superficial analysis of water quantity impacts from increased mining and milling in the region. The EIS needs to examine under the alternatives that if the leases are developed, the specific amount of water that will be used, and specifically where that water will be drawn. While depletions at individual sites will be less than Aspinall stipulations, the cumulative amounts could be significant in light of drought and climatic changes and related challenges to water supplies. It is irresponsible to not address numbers and impacts more accurately with drought and climatic changes that are affecting the basin and the greater Colorado Plateau (see BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessment of the Colorado Plateau). The consequences of allocating an increasingly scarce water supply to mining operations is not considered both in relation of the local and regional communities, and the greater Colorado Plateau.

The San Juan National Forest as well as the BLM's Tres Rios, Uncompahgre, and Grand Junction Field Offices have all assessed Wild and Scenic River eligibility and suitability through their recent and ongoing planning processes. Water and flow dependant outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) associated with Wild and Scenic suitability along the Dolores River below McPhee Dam include rafting, native fish and ecological values such as the Canyon treefrog, New Mexico Privet, Eastwood's Monkey Flower, and Kachina daisy. The PEIS must ensure that any decision does not impact the ORVs along the Dolores River.

Economic Analysis

We have the opportunity to preserve the Dolores River Basin for future generations as a natural gem of the American West. Local leaders and community members have been actively working on a National Conservation Area for the Dolores River corridor to preserve this remarkable natural heritage. National and international recognition of this treasure will bring an increase in tourism and recreation dollars and provide long-term sustainable economy for the region. We must think about the long-term health of the region before we further impact the watershed for short-term economic gain. There is currently not enough demand for Uranium in the United States to warrant the leasing of these domestic reserves. A five percent increase in employment is not enough to justify the impacts. The DOE leasing program should be focused on remediation, which could provide jobs and income to local residents immediately. This is an alternative that needs to be analyzed and included in the range of alternatives.

Another option is coordinating, or transferring surface management to the BLM, for clean energy development where possible, which would also provide local jobs and could be a model for clean and responsible energy development. A new alternative is needed to address the option of other beneficial uses of the surface that would provide economic benefits for the future of the area. These uses could be compatible with future uranium extraction when the demand for domestic supply is there.

L46-4
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L46-5 Impacts to the environmental resources analyzed in the PEIS such as air emissions, radiological exposure to human health, soil erosion, water quality, subsistence, visual, property values impacts, and transportation would be negligible to moderate. As a result, impacts on recreation are also likely to be minor. Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Reclamation of existing mine sites could improve the perception of the area to potential visitors, creating additional recreation employment and income in the region surrounding the area where potential leasing could occur.

Although the demand for uranium fluctuates, regardless of current demand levels, as stated in Section 1.4 of the PEIS, leasing programs are still required in order to develop a potential supply of domestic uranium, and to determine the future course of the ULP, including whether to continue leasing some or all of the withdrawn lands for the exploration and production of uranium and vanadium ores.

With regard to the available supply of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. Surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes as alternative energy development is not excluded by the ULP Program.

However, DOE oversees numerous programs to promote a wide variety of energy generation technologies, including many based on renewable resources, as well as programs that promote energy conservation and efficiency.

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The Dolores River Coalition

Additional areas of concern

- Air Quality: The air quality analysis fails to address a significant increase in dust creation from mining and milling activity and dispersion to downwind communities
- Comprehensive Landscape Management: Despite ongoing landscape management efforts, impacts to the Dolores River Corridor as a landscape were not addressed
- Climate Change: The PEIS fails to adequately address climate change impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Historical and Cultural Impacts
- Transportation: Leases 26 and 27 require travel on the Niche Road, which is a significantly dangerous route with a steep grade and numerous switchbacks. This route is frequented by not only grazing permittees but as well by public land users and tourists looking for adventure just off the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic & Historic State Byway (Colorado Highway 141). This route and location of these leases should be further assessed for safety.

Range of Alternatives

The "Range of Alternatives" is not a complete range of potential alternatives. The DOE did not analyze an alternative that would reduce the number of leases. A "conservation" alternative should be included to permanently withdraw the leases on highly sensitive lands especially those adjacent to the river to prevent water quality impacts to native fish species and habitat. These leases also affect river recreation, and are not suitable locations for uranium development. Further, leasing in critical habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse should be re-evaluated based on the proposed ruling in January. We would like to see a conservation alternative that permanently withdraws the following leases:

- Leases 13, 13A, and 14 (1, 2, 3) due to proximity to the Dolores River, impacts to water quality and native fish, and Desert Bighorn Sheep activity
- Leases 15 and 15a due to proximity to the river, water quality, and potential impacts to Wild and Scenic ORVs (canyon treefrog and monkey flower, both classified "rare or imperiled" in Colorado)
- Leases 18, 19, 19a, 20 for recreation impacts on and at the confluence of the San Miguel River
- Leases 17 (1) and 17 (2) for potential overlap in GuSG occupied habitat.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important program. We appreciate your consideration of our comments. The Dolores River corridor is remarkable for its ecological, cultural, and recreational values. We look forward to a careful review of the potential impacts of DOE's Uranium Leasing Program, and encourage the agency to take additional steps to mitigate impacts to the values that are present in this special landscape.

Sincerely,

Amber Kelley

L46-6

DOE has evaluated the potential impacts for 13 environmental resource areas (including air quality, historical and cultural impacts, transportation, and cumulative impacts) for the five alternatives considered to be the range of reasonable alternatives presented in the PEIS. DOE considers the evaluation to be adequate in supporting all five alternatives. See also discussion in Section I.3.2.

Climate change was evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1) in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) generated by the ULP proposed action for the five alternatives, respectively. The results indicate that the ULP proposed action contributes a very small percentage to both Colorado, and U.S. GHG generated (up to 0.03% and 0.0005%, respectively). U.S. GHG emissions account for about one-fifth of global GHG emissions, and GHG emissions from ULP proposed action are up to about 0.0001%. The amount of GHG generated is generally used as a measure of the potential impacts on climate change. In contrast, ULP mining activities (followed by power generations at nuclear power plants) would displace considerable amounts of criteria and toxic air pollutants, and GHG emissions that would otherwise be released from fossil power plants. Hence, ULP mining activities could result in more positive impacts than adverse impacts relative to climate change. The text in the PEIS has been revised (see the same sections mentioned previously) to explain further how potential impacts from climate change were analyzed for the PEIS and what the results mean.

L46-7

The range of reasonable alternatives evaluated in the PEIS encompasses the scenarios or alternatives discussed by the commenter.

The reasonable alternatives in the PEIS range from no future leases to 31 lease tracts without requiring all leases tracts to be leased.

The concern about water quality due to the proximity to the Dolores River and its tributary has been considered. One of mitigation measures to assure protection of surface water body from contamination and sedimentation was to restrict activities within ¼ mile of perennial streams (Table 4.6-1).

The impacts of ULP activities in Lease Tracts on sensitive native fish populations and Wild and Scenic ORVs (canyon treefrog and Eastwood's monkeyflower) are discussed in Section 4.3.6.4 (Table 4.3-8). Information on the Gunnison sage-grouse is provided in Sections 3.6.4, 4.1.6.4, and 4.3.6.4. As discussed in these sections, potentially suitable habitat for this species may occur in several lease tracts. However, based on information provided by industry and CPW, the species has not been recorded on any of the lease tracts. On January 11, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposed to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species under the ESA. At that time, the Service proposed to designate 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for the species. The Final PEIS has been updated with the most recent available information for the Gunnison sage-grouse, including updated geospatial data pertaining to the species' critical habitat.

Section 3.6.2.3.1, and to some extent Section 3.6.4.2.1, provide information on the occurrence and activity areas of the desert bighorn sheep in the ULP study area (see in particular Table 3.6-15 and Figure 3.6-8). The potential impacts of ULP activities on the desert bighorn sheep are discussed in Section 4.1.6.2 and 4.3.6.2. Among the measures to minimize potential impacts from ULP mining activities (see Section 4.6) is that there will be no new mining or other surface-disturbing activities within 0.25 mi of the Dolores River to avoid impacts on a desert bighorn sheep movement corridor.

Leases 18, 19, 19a, and 20 are located away from the San Miguel River.

Leases 17 (1) and 17 (2) do not overlap Gunnison sage-grouse proposed critical habitat.

Dolores River Coalition, Commenter ID No. L46 (Cont.)

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On behalf of

Dolores River Coalition

American Whitewater
Conservation Colorado
Colorado Mountain Club
Colorado Riverkeeper
Colorado River Outfitters Association
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Environmental Defense
Grand Canyon Trust
Living Rivers
Rocky Mountain Wild
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Miguel Watershed Coalition
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
The Wilderness Society and The Wilderness Support Center
Uncompahgre Valley Association
Utah Rivers Council
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**Re: Comments on Uranium Lease Management Program Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick,

These comments are submitted on behalf of environmental and public information organizations with long-established interests in the public lands and unique sense of place that characterizes the eastern edge of the Colorado Plateau : Conservation Colorado, Information Network for Responsible Mining, Center for Biological Diversity, Sheep Mountain Alliance, and Rocky Mountain Wild, (all of which are Plaintiffs in the pending litigation, *CEC v. Office of Legacy Management*, 08-cv-01624-WJM –MJW)(“CEC v. OLM”). The comments are also submitted on behalf of Grand Canyon Trust, Living Rivers, and Uranium Watch.

I. Introduction and Summary

When not occupied by inactive, unreclaimed federal mines, these lands provide a spectacular range of multiple uses, including important habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. A growing number of people live and visit the area to enjoy the unique geology, ecology, and reminders that these public lands are culturally important to a diverse array of people, including the Ancient Puebloans, modern Native Tribes, early agriculturalists, and recently arrivals seeking out the amenities that fuel the local and regional economies in Western Colorado and Southeast Utah.

The landscape impacted by the yellowcake production from the Uranium Lease Management Program (ULMP) forms the eastern edge of the Colorado Plateau and includes spectacular and remote sections of western Colorado and eastern Utah perched on and above the canyons and tributaries of the Colorado, San Juan, Dolores and San Miguel Rivers. The area is dominated by a federal public land complex that is world-renown for unique and impressive mesas, canyons, arches, and still-wild sections of river, all of which draw recreational users from around the

L47-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS’s stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS’s scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. *See* AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license “would be inimical to the common defense and security” or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations. Therefore, DOE’s proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

L47-1

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world. The unique mix of crytobiotic soils, vegetation, and wildlife signals a transition from the headwaters of the Colorado River high in the San Juan Mountains down into the canyon country of the Colorado Canyonlands. The mine-water discharges and stormwater runoff from these public lands flow into the Dolores River and Watershed to become part of the Colorado River System, upon which millions of people and an untold amount of wildlife depend. Pollution of the air and water at the White Mesa Uranium Mill near Blanding, Utah flows into the San Juan River, with some of the airborne pollution from White Mesa returning to the ULMP lands via dispersal and deposition mechanisms.

Although uranium mining in the Urvan Mineral Belt has never been economic without federal price supports, the uranium-bearing segments of these public lands should remain part of an inactive ULMP for some future date when the United States might need the uranium contained in these federal lands. Instead of describing the role of these federal uranium deposits in the United States' nuclear energy program, DOE's preferred alternative promotes immediate production in the name of domestic energy production while ignoring the fact that a South Korean utility holds a substantial stake in Energy Fuels which controls all conventional uranium milling options in the region, including the White Mesa mill and the proposed Piñon Ridge mill. This fact alone undermines DOE's stated purpose and need for its preferred alternative. Properly stated, the purpose and need for DOE's proposed action starts with an analysis of the fuel cycle needs and end with reactors and disposal of the radioactive materials. Exh 1 (2011 GAO Report on opportunities to sell excess uranium and addressing DOE's violations of federal law during management of excess U.S. uranium stockpiles). Although ignored in the DPEIS, analysis of the purpose and need for uranium mining in light of DOE-managed stockpiles of excess uranium will confirm that these federal lands should be managed, with no active leases, at least until such time as DOE has drawn down excess uranium stockpiles to reasonable quantities.

Instead of promoting export of what some have termed a strategic mineral, the current lessees should be required to reclaim the previous impacts from mining at these sites and to ensure these reserves are stable. Where appropriate, sites such as the Opera Box mine should be examined for their renewable energy potential, particularly solar. An example of a successful solar array is provided by "SMPA Community Solar, [which is] a one megawatt, community-owned solar facility in Paradox valley." <http://www.smpa.com/Service/SMPACCommunitySolar.cfm>. DOE has considered solar development as a reasonable alternative for other uranium-impacted federal land in the region, including lands managed by the Grand Junction Office. Protective designations should be considered for all uranium-bearing public lands to avoid further impacts to the Dolores River Watershed and to acknowledge that these mines, although not important in light of modern uranium economics, are important historically. This Three R Alternative (reclaim, reserve, renewables) was proposed in the scoping comments, but was ignored in the DPEIS.

Since 2005, when DOE began to re-evaluate the ULMP program, DOE and its contractors have gone to great lengths to avoid revelation of the problems that plague these decades-old uranium lease tracts. In the 1950s, the Atomic Energy Commission pulled back its reliance on Urvan Mineral Belt mines based on its recognition that the carnotite at these sites was marginally economic, at best. Although most lease tracts were returned to the public domain, some of the largest U.S. defense contractors, and subsidiaries such as Cotter Corporation, continued to lease

L47-2 The purpose and need for the proposed action does not require expansion of the scope of the PEIS. As explained in PEIS Section 1.4, "Purpose and Need for Agency Action," the underlying purpose and need for agency action was established by the U.S. Congress in two provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA): 42 U.S.C. § 2096, which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium; and 42 U.S.C. § 2097, which authorized DOE, among other things, "to issue leases or permits for prospecting for, exploration for, mining of, or removal of deposits of source material [including uranium ore] in lands belonging to the United States."

The Purpose and Need for agency action, as described in ULP PEIS Section 1.4, is to support the implementation of those two AEA provisions. Section 1.4 recognizes that in order to support these provisions "DOE needs to determine the future course of the ULP, including whether to continue leasing some or all of DOE's withdrawn lands and other claims . . . for the exploration and production of uranium ores for the remainder of the ten-year period that was covered by the July 2007 PEA." PEIS Section 1.6, "Scope of the ULP PEIS," therefore describes the scope of its analysis as the evaluation of the five alternatives for managing the ULP, and the evaluation of "the three mining phases associated with the underground and surface open-pit mining methods," which "are the exploration phase, mine development and operations phase, and reclamation phases." Therefore, the AEA provisions are consistent with the present scope of the ULP PEIS, and do not require that the scope be expanded beyond the ULP to analyze the entire nuclear fuel cycle. Further, no DOE decision to be based on this PEIS would change the nation's use of nuclear fuels, including use of nuclear power reactors and management of associated radioactive materials. These and other aspects of the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle are the subject of numerous other NEPA reviews, including many EISs prepared by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L47-3 DOE has considered the comment.

L47-4 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L47-5 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

L47-6 DOE analyzed "reclaim" and "reserve" (Alternative 1) as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Based on results of analysis in the PEIS and BA and BO, impacts to the Dolores River Watershed would be minimal.

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these tracts from DOE, with mining occurring only sporadically, if at all. Lax regulation and failure to enforce lease terms that require, among other things, compliance with Colorado law has allowed the undue and unnecessary degradation of the surface and subsurface of these federal public lands. Although the DPEIS relies on a set of outdated inspections of often-unsuccessful attempts to control erosion and to revegetate some of the sites, (S.M. Stoller Corporation, 2012), careful examination of the current site-specific conditions would likely confirm that it has been cheaper for the lessees to hold the leases, pay annual royalties, and forego production than to remediate decades of impacts and radiological contamination and accumulated damage in and around these lease tracts.

For instance, gamma surveys would confirm that some of these lease tracts are heavily contaminated by decades of sporadic mining activities and long-term stockpiling of ore at the mine sites. Surface radiological surveys must be coupled with core samples and a range of best available site-assessment techniques to update reclamation and remediation plans based almost entirely on visual inspections and assessments by persons with no expertise in radiological contamination. However, the radiological contamination and other site-specific conditions that caused BLM to reject the 2005 DOE proposal to return these lands to the public domain are not revealed in the DPEIS.

Instead of remedying problems known to various federal agencies, the DPEIS ignores a central holding of the District Court, which requires analysis of site specific impacts.

The Court applauds DOE for planning to conduct an EIS for the ULMP that will include site-specific impacts. However, the question before the Court is whether DOE acted arbitrarily and capriciously in failing to analyze site-specific impacts in its 2007 EA. The Court concludes that it did.

CEC v. OLM, Opinion and Order #94 at 24. As the Court confirmed, DOE's practice of ignoring existing site conditions and foreseeable activities would result in a NEPA analysis that fails to inform the public regarding full extent of the radioactive contamination and other impacts that plague decades-old the ULMP program.

Thus, a thorough cumulative effects analysis, including site-specific impacts, was not done during the process of creating the EA, nor was it done when actual site-specific activities were approved. If that trend were to continue, a thorough cumulative effects analysis, including site-specific impacts, might never occur.

Id at 23 FN 23.

The Court orders that DOE on remand conduct a NEPA analysis that considers and analyzes site-specific impacts of the various alternatives considered. DOE has represented that it will do so through its completion of an EIS.

Id. at 31 *citing* ECF No. 82, at 6.

L47-7
(Cont.)

L47-7 The State of Colorado and DOE continue to assure compliance with Colorado law and the lease terms.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. Reclamation is required by state and Federal law and by provisions of the lease. Consistent with state requirements, one lease holder has filed EPPs and another lease holder has submitted reclamation plans.

In correspondence from Douglas M. Koza, Acting for the Director of BLM's Colorado State Office, to Donna Bergman-Tabbert, Manager of DOE's Grand Junction Office, dated April 11, 2003, BLM stated that it was unwilling to accept the return of certain scattered parcels of expired ULP lease tracts (that had earlier been withdrawn for the ULP) to the public domain until such time as BLM can make a determination that the rest of the land included in the withdrawals is also suitable for return to BLM's administration. BLM further stated that if it determines that some or all of the withdrawn lands are suitable, BLM and DOE must reach an agreement on how DOE intends to maintain protective measures deemed necessary to deal with "any potential issues that may arise in the future, such as subsidence, erosion, or residual contamination resulting from uranium mining activities"; but that this agreement should not be developed until such time as DOE is ready to relinquish all of the withdrawn lands. BLM also stated that it will continue to work with DOE as additional mine closure and reclamation work is proposed for the remaining lease tracts; and that once "all remaining mine sites in the withdrawals are adequately reclaimed and appropriate measures are in place to adequately address any remaining contamination issues, BLM will make its final determination as to whether or not the withdrawn lands are suitable for return to BLM's administration."

L47-8

L47-8 The evaluations conducted for the PEIS were based on site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). The information is adequate to support the alternatives evaluated and for making fully informed decisions relative to any of the alternatives. Although site-specific information for future mines is not available until the lessees submit specific mine plans, information is available from past mining activities (e.g., cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, waste-rock and ore characteristics, and transportation practices and routes) and is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future mining activities for the five alternatives including a thorough cumulative effects analysis. The site-specific information reviewed for the PEIS is summarized in Section 1.3 of this PEIS.

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Unfortunately, instead of following through on representations made to the District Court, the DPEIS ignores these explicit commands and continues the trend of ignoring site-specific impacts that Judge Martinez concluded constitutes a NEPA violation. Despite requests by the public and government officials and the order of a federal judge, the DPEIS again fails to provide detailed analysis of the past and present site-specific impacts at each least tract in light of the various alternatives. Such analysis is specifically relegated to later NEPA documents that include categorical exclusions. DPEIS at S-23. The DPEIS plan to relegate site-specific analysis to later NEPA analyses that may include categorical exclusions is compounded the open refusal to gather site-specific data for analysis in the DPEIS:

This PEIS utilizes site-specific data that are available and contains a discussion of the NEPA process that would be conducted once site-specific and project-specific mine plans were submitted by the lessees to DOE for review and approval.

DPEIS at S-26. DOE's continued reliance on promises of future NEPA compliance has been squarely rejected as a means to avoid statutory duties and judicial orders. *CEC v. OLM*, Opinion and Order #94 accord *Sierra Club v. United States DOE*, 255 F. Supp. 2d 1177, 1190 (D. Colo. 2002)(“Although Defendants' assurances of future NEPA review possess a certain pragmatic appeal, such assurances cannot obviate the need for compliance with NEPA regulations.”).

Although Section 1.2.3 purports to provide site-specific information, no useful data is provided regarding the actual conditions at any of the sites or the (in)adequacy of ongoing maintenance, pollution controls, monitoring, lease terms, mining plans, or reclamation plans. As a result, the DPEIS again refuses to address the site specific impacts in a manner that discloses direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the ULMP, and therefore fails to remedy a central NEPA violation based on judicial findings fully applicable to the preparation of the DPEIS on remand. Order and Opinion at 24.

As a result, the DPEIS does not provide the “hard look” and interdisciplinary analysis required by NEPA. Instead of wasting further public resources by requiring the public to comment on DOE's incomplete and internal paperwork exercises, DOE should withdraw the DPEIS as incomplete and begin anew by publishing a scoping notice designed to address the difficult problems that have accrued over more than a half-century of mining and neglect of these federal public lands.

The new scoping notice should be issued with the additional Alternative 6 included: reclaim and hold these lands as uranium reserves, with some used for renewable energy.

Although requested in the scoping comments, DOE neglected to hold any meetings or conduct outreach to the communities most impacted by the active federal uranium program: Paradox and Gateway, Colorado which are located near several of the mines, and the White Mesa Ute Indian Community in Utah, which suffers past, present, and future impacts of milling the ore mined from the federal uranium program in the Uravan Mineral Belt. After a new scoping notice is issued, the cooperating agencies should have a full opportunity to ensure NRC promotes meaningful participation by the public and public officials to the fullest extent possible.

L47-9

L47-9 See response to L47-8.

Follow-on NEPA review would support future decisions. It would be used to determine whether additional specific mitigation measures would be implemented to assure protection of human health and environment. This approach is not only fully consistent with long-standing NEPA practice, such as use of tiering described in CEQ NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1508.28), but also ensures a robust environmental review process enabling appropriate consideration of environmental factors, including mitigation, when issues are ripe for decision making.

L47-10

L47-10 DOE identified the communities and locations that would be reasonably close to the affected communities and provided an opportunity for those affected to attend. See rationale given to public comment 4F in Table B-2 in Appendix B. DOE is confident that the public hearings at Grand Junction, Montrose, Telluride, and Naturita provided the interested members of the public adequate opportunities to participate in a meeting format with regard to accessibility of venues and proximity to where interested members of the public reside.

NRC does not regulate the ULP.

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In short, the DPEIS avoids the "hard look" mandated by NEPA, and prevents the public and agency decisionmakers from fully comprehending the full scope of policymaking and site-specific considerations presented by the ongoing ULMP.

II. Interim Protections

Because the DPEIS, like the PEA, fails to satisfy NEPA and the holdings underlying the permanent injunction, protective action is likely needed to prevent further unnecessary and undue degradation of the federal lands. Judge Martinez recognized that maintenance and stabilization of specific sites need not wait until the multi-year NEPA/ESA process is complete, but neither should these activities escape NEPA analysis based on DOE's continuing refusal to comply with NEPA. As stated in the 2011 scoping comments, because of the radiological contamination and deteriorated condition of many of these sites, Environmental Assessments could be initiated for the limited purposes of considering the necessary stabilization and maintenance on the 13 lease tracts that were active previous to 2007. Unfortunately, DOE has not provided detailed information on what activities are actually being conducted at the lease sites, opting instead for a list of things that may be occurring. *see e.g.* Exh. 2 (July 2013 bi-monthly update). Although these problems will be addressed in context of the injunction, it also confirms that the DPEIS does not provide current and full information that would allow informed decisions or public participation.

Although NEPA prohibits segmented analysis, a tightly-defined set of interim EAs for one or two reclamation projects could correspond with the temporary and permanent reclamation proposals for these mines that are moving through the Colorado regulatory process. Filings by Cotter Corporation, Energy Fuels and Gold Eagle Mining confirm that none of these mines are expected to go into production until yellowcake reaches prices that have never been sustained. In particular, on Cotter-leased mines, interim reclamation is required and no mining is expected in the foreseeable future. Permanent reclamation has been ordered by the State agency on the leases held by Gold Eagle. All these documents should be in the lease files, as is required by the lease terms, although such documents have not yet been disclosed via the pending March 2013 FOIA request.

As could have been predicted, and perhaps was predicted by UMETCO when it suspended operations and transferred these tracts to what appears to be a closely held and under-capitalized Gold Eagle Mining, the Uravan Mineral Belt mines are not economic and will require many tens of thousands, and perhaps hundreds of thousands, of dollars to characterize and remediate before they can be reclaimed. The aborted attempt by Cotter to mine its lease tracts in 2005-2006 confirms that the tracts do not contain economically recoverable ore in the current era of excess uranium stockpiles. As confirmed by FOIA response, the ore mined in 2005-2006 has not yet been processed, and was recently shipped from lessee Cotter's now-demolished mill in Cañon City, Colorado to lessee Energy Fuels' mill near White Mesa, Utah. The publicly announced closure of Energy Fuels' Whirlwind Mine and the Sunday Complex, located on nearby BLM-managed lands, and all other Colorado Plateau uranium mining operations confirm that there is no purpose or need served by carnotite mining, particularly in light of the current state of the mines and the difficulties faced by DOE management of excess uranium stockpiles. Exh. 1.

L47-10
(Cont.)

L47-11

L47-11 DOE has provided the plaintiffs in the lawsuit with bi-monthly summaries of all of the routine maintenance activities that were performed by the ULP lessees on the ULP lease tracts. See Section 1.2. In each of those summaries, DOE provided detailed information on what activities were actually conducted during the two-month period before DOE provided the summary to the plaintiffs. For example, the bi-monthly summary that this commenter attaches as its Exhibit 2 – which is entitled "Routine Maintenance Activities Performed by the ULP Lessees (April 25, 2013 through June 24, 2013)" – was provided by the Government to the attorneys for the plaintiffs (who are also the attorneys for this commenter) by e-mail on June 28, 2013.

L47-12

L47-12 On October 18, 2011, a Federal district court stayed the 31 leases, and enjoined DOE from approving any activities on ULP lands. On February 27, 2012, the court amended its injunction to allow DOE, other Federal, state, or local governmental agencies, and the ULP lessees to conduct only those activities on ULP lands that are absolutely necessary, as described in the court's Order. See *Colorado Environmental Coalition v. Office of Legacy Management*, No. 08-cv-01624, 2012 U.S. DIST. LEXIS 24126 (D. Colo. Feb. 27, 2012).

DOE will request that the court dissolve the injunction to complete actions (including reclamation) under the alternative selected in the ROD.

L47-13

L47-13 The lease tracts that Gold Eagle Mining holds were not leased by UMETCO.

III. Scope of Analysis

The DPEIS should provide the public and the local, state, and federal agencies with jurisdiction and control over the federal uranium industry in the Uravan Mineral Belt with information and interdisciplinary analysis mandated by National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”). Instead, the scope of analysis is limited only to a limited set of “available data” that fails to inform the public and denies decisionmakers a clear picture of impacts and alternative means to manage these federal public lands. DPEIS at S-26

A. Purpose and Need and Proposed Action

As explained in the public comments submitted in 2006 and 2007 and 2011 (incorporated herein by reference), and again during the litigation (incorporated herein by reference), the federal action that triggers NEPA was the 2005 expiration of the programmatic decisions and uranium leases issued in 1995 and the question of whether/how the Atomic Energy Act’s uranium lease management program would go forward. The 1995 PEA described the purpose of the Uranium Lease Management Program (“ULMP”) being considered in the DPEIS:

2.0 Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the ULMP is to maintain and preserve the nation’s immediately accessible supply of domestic uranium and vanadium ores, to maintain a viable domestic mining and milling infrastructure required to produce and mill these ores, and to provide assurance of a fair monetary return to the U.S. Government.

1995 PEA. The DPEIS expands this purpose in context of federal energy policy through a suggestion that the 2005 Energy Policy Act calls for more nuclear energy. DPEIS 1-28. However, the scope of analysis in the DPEIS explicitly ignores the cumulative impacts created by an expanded nuclear industry that purportedly forms the purpose and need for the action, and thereby ignores the eventual disposal of the radioactive waste at each link in the nuclear fuel chain. DPEIS at S-39-40 (“This Draft ULP PEIS does not discuss the impacts of these actions [where ore would be] converted, enriched, and fabricated into nuclear fuel; used in commercial reactors; possibly reprocessed; and ultimately result in the generation of various radioactive wastes requiring specialized disposal.”). Further, in the ensuing years, the increased yellowcake price and so-called “nuclear renaissance” proved to be a “hedge-fund” driven promotion by the nuclear industry, with prices now in the \$30/lb range for yellowcake. World events such as Fukushima and the resulting decrease in nuclear reactor projections and the obsolescence of many existing reactors are also not factored into any analysis of the actual need (or lack thereof) to mine uranium in a period of global excess supply. The DPEIS cannot rely on the incorrect and unexamined assumption that more reactors will mean that uranium mining should resume on these long-dormant lease tracts. Even if more reactors are built than are retired, the costs of mining carnotite in the Uravan Mineral Belt will likely remain prohibitively expensive compared to costs of what is now a global commodity. The DPEIS provides no analysis in these regards.

Further, the various mining alternatives forwarded by the DPEIS do not recognize that uranium mining on the Colorado Plateau has proven uneconomic, with or without federal price supports.

L47-14

L47-14

See responses to L47-2 and L47-6.

Reclamation in lieu of Royalties (RILOR) program is identified in Article XVI of the Lease Agreement (see Appendix A).

The DPEIS did not admit an oversupply, but rather noted a comment provided to DOE during the scoping process regarding oversupply, which DOE stated was out of scope for the PEIS.

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At one time, price supports were provided by the AEC along with guaranteed purchase of ore. Outdated price supports are still provided by DOE decisions to hold already mined uranium ("AMU") stockpiles off the market, much of which may have come from these public lands. Exh. 1 (GAO Excess Uranium Report). DOE continues to ignore GAO determinations that management of U.S. uranium resources is conducted based on unlawful barter program. Exh. 1 GAO Excess Uranium Report. When DOE's Excess AMU program is taken into account, the purpose and need of mining uranium for domestic supply is revealed as farce that serves to conceal DOE's misappropriation of royalties for many years via and ineffective *ultra vires* reclamation *in lieu* of royalties program. *Id.* There is no justifiable need to delay reclamation on the premise of reviving uranium mining from DOE lease tracts where DOE is also paying millions of dollars per year to maintain of AMU in stockpiles. *Id.* Although previous and current bonds are likely to prove insufficient to reclaim these lands, DOE is not free to redirect royalties generated by the lease program into its own unlawful appropriations program. As has been confirmed at the notorious Hanford site, DOE and its contractors have a pattern of ignoring known problems and retaliating against those employees who defy agency culture by revealing serious problems.

Although the stated purpose of the DPEIS - promoting nuclear energy - requires an analysis of sufficient scope to addresses the impacts of expanding nuclear industry, cumulative impacts of the nuclear fuel supply chain, liability limitations for harms caused by nuclear fuel production, and DOE's management of the surplus of AMU are dismissed as irrelevant. Even if these impacts could be lawfully ignored, the DPEIS cannot ignore potentially beneficial effects of putting U.S.-owned uranium deposits in the Uravan Mineral Belt into reserve status, ensuring lessees satisfy unmet reclamation/mitigation requirements, and protecting the social/ecological importance of the federal public lands in the Uravan Mineral Belt. Instead of aggravating the problems linked to excess AMU stockpiles, the proposed Alternative 6 would benefit the purpose and need. Instead, the DPEIS admits an oversupply of AMU while simply arbitrarily declaring that uranium oversupply is outside the scope of the analysis. DPEIS 1-34, B-12.

Another purpose and need for agency action is to reassess the ULMP in light of the current conditions at the sites and the inadequate leases, reclamation plans, and mining plans. By relying only on "available data" the DPEIS ignores serious problems at these sites, downplays the radiation impacts, and contravenes NEPA requirements to gather necessary data or explain why such efforts are impossible. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.22. Original data, such as gamma surveys, core samples, water well monitoring, and air samples must be gathered at each of these sites before DOE makes any programmatic decisions. Judge Martinez reviewed the site-specific information and concluded that such analysis cannot be delayed indefinitely by relegating them to later NEPA analyses. Opinion and Order at 24.

Records of the state of Colorado confirm that reclamation and maintenance on these 13 previously active lease tracts has been neglected for a period of years, if not decades. Because the mines have been commercially inactive for a minimum of ten years, none of the mining plans comply with Colorado's Mined Land Reclamation Act. See C.R.S. § 34-32-103(6)(a)(III)(" In no case shall temporary cessation of production be continued for more than ten years without terminating the operation and fully complying with the reclamation requirements of this article."). Also, the DPEIS ignores the information in the Environmental Protection Plans

L47-14
(Cont.)

L47-15

L47-15 DOE had adequate information that was essential to decision making. No additional information essential to decision making is required.

See also responses to L47-2 and L47-9.

EPP information has been evaluated and incorporated in the PEIS. See Section 1.3 for a summary.

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required by Colorado law, which some of the lessees have not prepared, in violation of both Colorado law and the plain terms of the leases that require compliance with state and local laws. See C.R.S. § 34-32-103(3.5)(a)(III). The persistent violation of state law at many of these sites provides a sound basis to void such leases and for DOE to use existing bonds to hire a competent contractor to take initial steps toward reclamation of the sites, regardless of Colorado's failure to document the violations with formal citations and fines. The DPEIS does not address the fact that many tons of uranium ore mined from these tracts has sat unsecured for many years and some ore was actually backfilled into a mine instead of being shipped for processing into yellowcake.

L47-15
(Cont.)

The true purpose and need served by the programmatic decisions on the ULMP is to address site-specific problems and violations before the program continues or is expanded beyond 1995 approvals. Competent analysis will confirm that a properly implemented uranium leasing program would provide the orderly development of federal public lands and/or and management of uranium as reserves that was contemplated when the original uranium leasing program was created in the 1940s.

B. Site Specific Conditions are Ignored

The DPEIS confirms inadequate efforts to gather information on nature and extent of existing plans and on-the-ground activities on the lease tracts. Instead of asking for mining plans and reports on the condition of the sites, the agency records released in the as-yet incomplete FOIA request indicates that current lessees were asked for informal input.

By contrast, Colorado agencies, including the DRMS and the Water Quality Control Commission have been active addressing violation of state law, including the lack of adequate environmental permits at these mines. See <http://mining.state.co.us/ImagedDocuments.htm>. These ongoing state permitting activities certainly involve federal jurisdiction and control; however they are not analyzed in the DPEIS. Avoiding NEPA analysis by relying on state regulation or alleged compliance with applicable laws is prohibited. *South Fork Band Council v. Department of the Interior*, 588 F.3d 718, 725-726 (9th Cir. 2009) citing *Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center v. BLM*, 387 F.3d 989, 998 (9th Cir.2004). Instead, the analysis in the DPEIS must satisfy the NEPA and other federal duties that are involved, even where permitting decisions are being conducted by state agencies or other federal agencies under the auspices of MOUs or other non-NEPA documents. See DPEIS at Section 5.4 Memoranda of Understanding.

L47-16

L47-16 See response to L47-15.

Although the information is contained in the Administrative Record from the litigation, the DPEIS does not disclose or analyze the conditions at the site that resulted in the repeated Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") decisions to decline the DOE request to send these lands back into BLM management that would result from terminating this program. The DPEIS must disclose and analyze the conditions that led BLM to correctly identify and rely on of the lack of maintenance, reclamation, and likely radioactive contamination on these lease sites as a reason these sites should not be returned to the public domain. The DPEIS does confirm that OLM cannot transfer these lands to BLM without first requiring the necessary but incomplete reclamation and decontamination, but the DPEIS does not identify the site-specific or off-site conditions that must be remedied or standards that must be met. DPEIS at 5-8. The DPEIS

L47-17

L47-17 In correspondence from Douglas M. Koza, Acting for the Director of BLM's Colorado State Office, to Donna Bergman-Tabbert, Manager of DOE's Grand Junction Office, dated April 11, 2003, BLM stated that it was unwilling to accept the return of certain scattered parcels of expired ULP lease tracts (that had earlier been withdrawn for the ULP) to the public domain until such time as BLM can make a determination that the rest of the land included in the withdrawals is also suitable for return to BLM's administration. BLM further stated that if it determines that some or all of the withdrawn lands are suitable, BLM and DOE must reach an agreement on how DOE intends to maintain protective measures deemed necessary to deal with "any potential issues that may arise in the future, such as subsidence, erosion, or residual contamination resulting from uranium mining activities"; but that this agreement should not be developed until such time as DOE is ready to relinquish all of the withdrawn lands. BLM also stated that it will continue to work with DOE as additional mine closure and reclamation work is proposed for the remaining lease tracts; and that once "all remaining mine sites in the withdrawals are adequately reclaimed and appropriate measures are in place to adequately address any remaining contamination issues, BLM will make its final determination as to whether or not the withdrawn lands are suitable for return to BLM's administration."

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merely asserts that transfer to public domain cannot take place until “all involved lands are reclaimed to BLM standards and needs.” Id.

L47-17
(Cont.)

Besides continuation of the program, a number of other actions are involved at the programmatic and site-specific level. Specific program-level actions that require site-specific analysis and decisions that were not addressed in the DPEIS include:

- confirmation of existing reclamation liabilities and bond amounts for each site;
- determination of the party responsible for addressing existing impacts at each site;
- whether or not to issue leases on any specific lease tract;
- adopting program-wide lease terms and conditions;
- limiting activities on lease tracts to reclamation;
- continuation of any existing mine plans;
- road access, use, and maintenance;

L47-18

Although off-site impacts of mining must also be analyzed, the DPEIS simply brushes off the federal court order by limiting the programmatic analysis to the limited information in DOE databases and by relying on reasoning rejected by the district court. For example, the DPEIS explains its limited disclosure and analysis of transportation and road impacts where “[s]hipment of uranium ore is not presented over the life of the program because of the uncertainty associated with future uranium demand and mine development.” DPEIS 4-246

L47-19

The DPEIS proposal to use categorical exclusions as part of NEPA tiering scheme that avoids programmatic analysis and public comment on foreseeable activities and cumulative impacts is simply unlawful. Order at 23 FN 23. Should a lawful DPEIS be released, later site-specific actions could be approved based on require notice and comment opportunities in environmental assessments (“EAs”) tiered to the PEIS:

- issuance of leases;
- lessee requests to conduct exploration;
- lessee requests for mine plan approval or amendment.
- requests for approval of reclamation activities;
- construction and maintenance of water treatment facilities;
- construction, operation, and maintenance of radon vents;
- transport and disposal of radioactive materials.

L47-20

However, the narrow set of circumstances that could allow deferred analysis to subsequent NEPA tiers does not eliminate the duty to document and reveal the condition of the sites and cumulative impacts, as they exist in 2013, as a basis for programmatic determination and as a basis for later NEPA analysis that also involves public involvement. Despite clear judicial orders, OLM elected against site-specific analysis and determinations with the programmatic NEPA analysis, thereby preventing a “hard look” at both the program and foreseeable activities and knowable conditions at the sites. Where the scope of analysis is fatally flawed, a new scoping analysis should be conducted based on careful and detailed analysis of the site-specific conditions and foreseeable activities that must be considered in the ULMP DPEIS.

L47-21

L47-18 The PEIS provides programmatic analysis of foreseeable activities and consideration of cumulative impacts of the ULP. Before making decisions on future lease activities, DOE will conduct further NEPA review, as appropriate.

Based on comments received, Section 1.7 has been revised to state the following: For mining plans to be submitted for approval, DOE will require, at a minimum, an environmental assessment (EA) with appropriate public involvement to be prepared to further evaluate potential site impacts. This NEPA review would be conducted to inform DOE’s decision on approval of the plans, including the conditions DOE would require to mitigate potential impacts.

L47-19 The Draft PEIS presents a complete analysis of estimated transportation impacts for peak year activities. Peak year activities were considered to represent a reasonable upper-bound level of activity to provide a conservative yet reasonable estimate on an annual basis (e.g., see Section 2.2.3.1: Basis for Impact Analyses for Alternative 3). The potential impacts estimated are small and potential impacts for multiple peak years would remain small.

L47-20 See response L47-8.

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DOE will issue categorical exclusion determinations for classes of actions such as maintenance activities that DOE has determined by regulation do not have the potential to result in significant environmental impacts. DOE makes its categorical exclusion determinations publicly available on the internet.

L47-21 See response to L47-20.

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C. Reclamation Bonds and RILOR (Reclamation in Lieu of Royalties).

The post-2007 implementation of the ULMP included a novel and likely illegal appropriations scheme where OLM credited lessees with royalty payments for reclamation work on nearby public and private lands. See Antideficiency Act 31 U.S.C. § 1341(a)(1)(prohibiting agency expenditures from exceeding appropriations), Adequacy of Appropriations Act, 41 U.S.C. § 111 (“No contract or purchase on behalf of the United States shall be made, unless the same is authorized by law or is under an appropriation adequate to its fulfillment . . .”), 31 U.S.C. § 3302(b) (“Except as provided in section 3718(b) of this title, an official or agent of the Government receiving money for the Government from any source shall deposit the money in the Treasury as soon as practicable without deduction for any charge or claim.”). The program appears to have been created and overseen by OLM and the private contractors that implement much of the ULMP. The past impacts of this program, including the success and failure of the reclamation activities provide important information, but was not included in the DPEIS.

Because the RILOR program is not mentioned in the DPEIS, it must be assumed that the RILOR program has been abandoned. However, there is merit to the concept of legislation making royalty payments available for reclamation of federal lands where historic management of the DOE leasing program and the 1872 Mining Law failed to protect the public lands from uranium miners who went bankrupt or otherwise abandoned reclamation responsibilities.

For purposes of NEPA, the past and present implementation of the RILOR program must be analyzed to determine whether or not the RILOR projects resulted in adequate reclamation of the unique hazards posed by uranium mining, including radioactive contamination of the soils and groundwater. Gamma surveys of many sites confirm that radioactive issues plague these sites. The NEPA process is also a proper forum to analyze lack of transparency and accountability that may have allowed royalties to be credited against reclamation on lease tracts that should be done at the expense of the lessee, under terms of the lease.

Although reclamation activities are widespread throughout the project area, the DPEIS fails to describe the extent of these activities or confirm that ongoing reclamation of uranium mines is being carried out in the project area by BLM and the state of Colorado based on various funding sources, including stimulus funds.

Finally, the adequacy and availability of the OLM-approved reclamation bonds must be considered. These bonds should serve as a source of immediately accessible funds to conduct necessary planning and permitting that must precede activities designed to achieve stabilization, reclamation, and decontamination on these lease tracts. Instead, the DPEIS unlawfully relegates the consideration of bond adequacy and existing site-specific conditions to a later date. DPEIS at 5-7. As stated above, such delay is prohibited. CEC v. OLM, Order and Opinion at 23-4.

D. Connected, Cumulative, and Similar Actions Must be Considered

The DPEIS fails to analyze the impacts of various other actions that must be included in the scope of the analysis, including the impacts of milling.

- L47-22 L47-22 The reclamation of legacy mine sites on the ULP lease tracts is summarized in Section 1.3. Text presented in this section clarifies that some of the legacy mine sites were reclaimed using reclamation in lieu of royalty payments or RILORs.
- L47-23 L47-23 The RILOR program is identified in Article XVI of the Lease Agreement (see Appendix A).
Reclamation performed at legacy mines was identified in the PEIS in Section 1.3.
The reclamation provisions would be consistent with BLM’s reclamation closure guidelines as stated in *Uranium Closure/Reclamation Guidelines* (BLM 1995) and CDRMS regulations.
- L47-24 L47-24 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS. The PEIS contains a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts, which evaluates the incremental impacts of DOE’s proposed action in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions by others. DOE’s analysis considers other reclamation activities within the regions of influence for each environmental resource area.
- L47-25 L47-25 On the ULP leases, no reclamation is occurring because of the Court’s injunction.
- L47-26 L47-26 DOE’s administration of the ULP includes actions such as establishing the amount of reclamation performance bonding appropriate for the amount of environmental disturbance anticipated based on an evaluation of the lessees’ proposed activities, including site-specific access routes, exploration drill-hole locations, mine-site support facility locations, and proposed methods of reclamation.
Existing bonds are based on the environmental disturbances of mining operations that are currently stayed. DOE will re-evaluate the bonds when new plans are submitted.
- L47-26 L47-26 See response to L47-1.

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1. National Mission of DOE in Managing Domestic Uranium Production

The Montrose Board of County Commissioner’s rightly observed at the scoping meetings that the scope of analysis must consider the national mission of DOE. The DPEIS overtly refuses to include such analysis. Comments from scoping regarding national policy, local impacts, and excess AMU stockpiles are incorporated here by reference.

The national-level DOE mission is particularly important where lessees have identified East Asia as the likely destination for the ore mined from the public lands in the Uravan Mineral Belt. Recent published reports confirm that a major stockholder and customer of Energy Fuels is the South Korean utility company. Because all ore from the federal tracts will go to either its existing White Mesa Mill or the proposed Piñon Ridge Mill, the impact of exporting yellowcake must be analyzed for its impacts on domestic energy policy, not to mention the impacts of providing additional yellowcake into a global market/regulatory system that has proven incapable of meeting its non-proliferation goals.

2. Energy Fuels’ Proposed Uranium Mill

Judge Martinez confirmed that the likely destination of the uranium mined from these lease tracts - the newly licensed Energy Fuels Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill - has become definite enough in its plans in 2011 that it must be analyzed in the NEPA analysis on remand. Order at 25-29. Now that a license has issued, there is no question that NEPA analysis is required for the proposed Piñon Ridge mill. Although it appears that Energy Fuels has scrapped plans to construct the now-licensed PR Mill until uranium prices rise substantially, lessee Energy Fuels is the only entity with an active license to accept and process uranium ore due to its recent acquisition of the mill near White Mesa, Utah, the likely destination of any ore mined from the ULMP in the next decade.

Cotter Corporation’s radioactive materials license expired on December 2013. As a result, the only activities allowed at Cotter’s Cañon City are remediation and closure, which may involve the excavation of uranium tailings for placement in a competent tailings facility. Although the past impacts of transporting and milling federal ore at Cañon City must be analyzed in a new DPEIS, Cotter Corporation no longer has a uranium mill capable of receiving and processing ore. This could explain the discussion of transferring leases from Cotter to Energy Fuels that was revealed in the as-yet incomplete FOIA response. Consolidation of leases by Energy Fuels is foreseeable, logical in light of recent changes in the milling options, and would impact Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act permitting for the lease tracts near or adjacent the mill site. This information, which pre-dates the publication of the DPEIS, must be revealed in a new DPEIS.

Further, NEPA analysis is required for the processing of ore from BLM managed lands at the White Mesa Mill for the undetermined number of years until the Piñon Ridge mill is made operational, if ever. *In Re Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance*, IBLA 2010-138 (invalidating NEPA analysis where BLM failed to consider the impacts of uranium mill); *see also* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7 (requiring federal agencies to consider cumulative impacts associated with approved projects, “regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.”).

L47-26
(Cont.)

L47-27

L47-27 The impacts of the White Mesa Mill were analyzed in the Cumulative Impacts section of the PEIS (see Section 4.7.2.1) and this section cites NRC (1979) as the source of information concerning potential environmental impacts (see Table 4.7-3).

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Regardless whether mined from DOE or BLM-controlled minerals, some federal agency must prepare the required NEPA analysis of milling federal ore from the Uravan Mineral Belt into yellowcake. The DPEIS does not contain such an analysis and cannot identify any NEPA document containing such an analysis.

L47-27
(Cont.)

Energy Fuels has obtained preliminary and conditional approvals for various alternative water supplies, but the Bureau of Reclamation has confirmed that in order for Energy Fuels to pump groundwater or otherwise deplete Dolores River, a NEPA analysis must be conducted. Exh 3. Federal approvals are required before use of federal Dolores Project water and before San Miguel River water is diverted, stored, and delivered to the Paradox Valley. Exh. 4. These approvals, which are ongoing review by other federal agencies, must be documented in the DPEIS and must be analyzed in the ongoing formal Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Unfortunately, DOE, USFWS, and BLM have delayed their respective responses to ongoing FOIA requests, thereby excluding the public from both NEPA and ESA considerations.

L47-28

L47-28 DOE has consulted with the USFWS with regards to potential water depletion impacts from the proposed action. PEIS text has been revised to be consistent with the BA and BO (see Appendix E for the BA and BO).

Federal approval of Energy Fuels' Piñon Ridge tailings facility by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Clean Air Act's regulation of has not been finalized. Federal action by EPA regarding the uranium mill remains ongoing and contingent on review of potential groundwater impacts. When Energy Fuels closes, the tailings facility will be deeded to the United States and assigned to OLM for perpetual care and maintenance. EPA is also charged with regulating radon emissions from the mines, another ESA agency action that has not been presented to USFWS for consideration during the ongoing formal Section 7 consultation.

L47-29

L47-29 This PEIS evaluates potential impacts of Pinon Ridge in combination with the proposed action as discussed in the cumulative impacts section (see Section 4.7.1.1)

The need for careful, site specific analysis of pollution caused by ongoing milling and mining is confirmed by NRC's recently statement that ongoing radioactive pollution is addressed at mills on a case-by-case basis, and not through a specific regulatory structure. 76 Fed.Reg. 42075 (June 3, 2013 "Currently, there are no NRC regulations that require licensees to promptly remediate radiological contamination."). A similar regulatory gap exists in both the Colorado and Utah Agreement State programs. The *ad hoc* regulation of radiological contamination at operating uranium mills is particularly important where both of Energy Fuels' mills lack state and federal regulatory protections that address contamination during operations. Careful NEPA analysis of past, present, and foreseeable milling activity is also critical where uranium mills on the San Miguel River (Uravan and Durita sites) remain subject to a Colorado licensing regime that lacks the resources to remediate the groundwater and other problems to the satisfaction of DOE, EPA, and NRC.

L47-30

L47-30 See response to L47-29.

At White Mesa, problems include radon containment, groundwater contamination, off-site deposition of radioactive and other contaminants. Some of the more recent documentation includes on-line documents of USGS and EPA that document the impact of this federal program on eastern Utah communities, including the White Mesa Ute Community. *see e.g.* http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/tribal/upload/wed2_6whitemesa.pdf.

L47-31

L47-31 The potential impacts reported for the White Mesa mill in reports prepared for the facility (not DOE reports) have been incorporated into the cumulative impacts analysis for the PEIS as discussed in Section 4.7. EPA is a cooperating agency for the PEIS process; NRC and USGS were both invited and elected to participate as commenting agencies. The scope for the ULP PEIS is consistent with the purpose and need described in Section 1.4 which does not support the evaluation of the nuclear fuel chain involving mining, milling and perpetual care of radioactive tailings as stated in the comment. Further, no DOE decision to be based on this PEIS would change the nation's use of nuclear fuels, including use of nuclear power reactors and management of associated radioactive materials. These and other aspects of the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle are the subject of numerous other NEPA reviews, including many EISs prepared by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sediment samples collected from three ephemeral drainages east of the uranium mill site (including Entrance Spring) contained uranium concentrations exceeding background

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values downwind of the predominant wind directions at the site. Sediment samples collected from ephemeral drainages on the south and west boundaries of the uranium mill site generally did not exceed background-uranium concentrations. Elevated concentrations of uranium and vanadium, indicating offsite transport, were found in plant tissue samples collected north-northeast, east, and south of the mill site, downwind of potential migration of radionuclides and trace elements from the White Mesa uranium mill the predominant wind directions at the site. The uranium and vanadium concentrations in plant tissue samples collected west of the uranium mill site were low.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5231/>. NEPA’s action-forcing purposes require DOE to disclose and analyze the problem-plagued White Mesa Mill in a new DPEIS.

NRC, EPA, and USGS have extensive expertise and jurisdiction regarding uranium mining and milling that should have been relied upon in the DPEIS. Each of these agencies should be included as cooperating agencies in a new scoping notice that should precede the issuance of a new DPEIS for public comment.

In sum, the links of the nuclear fuel chain that involve mining, milling, and perpetual care of radioactive tailings are all federal endeavors that must be analyzed in accordance with the “one EIS” requirement of NEPA. As discussed in the “cooperating agencies” section of these comments, without a comprehensive analysis, many of the important impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures will not be revealed to the public and relevant decisionmakers, particularly where NRC has confirmed that the federal regulatory program carried out by NRC, Utah, and Colorado contains serious regulatory gaps.

3. Other Uranium Mining, Road Access, and Off-lease land use within the Uranium Mineral Belt

The scoping comments explained that although the ULMP may only control a portion of the lands containing uranium ore, the DPEIS must analyze activities and impacts well beyond its property lines. These comments were confirmed by Judge Martinez, who rejected arguments to the contrary:

[I]t makes sense to point out that DOE is incorrect in its arguments in its Response Brief for why off-lease land uses by leaseholders need not be analyzed under NEPA.

Order at 29. The importance of this basic NEPA requirement was confirmed by an explicit command to analyze road use, BLM mining, and other off-site activities and impacts.

DOE is ordered on remand to include in its NEPA-compliant analysis an analysis of the combined and cumulative impacts of the proposed action, including off-site activities by leaseholders.

Order at 30.

L47-31
(Cont.)

L47-32

L47-32 Cumulative impacts analysis discussed in the PEIS does address off-lease or areas outside property lines or outside the ULP lease tracts. See Section 4.7 for cumulative impacts discussion and Figure 4.7-1 for area included in the region of cumulative effects.

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The district court has rebuked previous reliance on uncertainty regarding the ULMP as an excuse to limit the scope of the analysis. However, throughout the DPEIS, it appears that off-lease land uses were eliminated from serious consideration based on asserted uncertainty about mining, exploration, and reclamation. For example, the DPEIS focuses on a peak year, but the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of “[t]he shipment of uranium ore is not assumed over the life of the program because of the uncertainty associated with future uranium demand and mine development.” DPEIS at 4-154, *accord* 4-158, 4-209, 4-246, D-34.

L47-32
(Cont.)

As was confirmed by OLM at the scoping hearings, the Grand Junction area is also within the scope of this analysis, with public hearing held on the DPEIS. However, little attention is given to the ULMP impacts on Grand Junction. During the 2007 PEA/FONSI, OLM recognized that meetings should have been held in Blanding, not Monticello, due to the likelihood that the White Mesa Mill will be used to mill uranium from these lease tracts. However, this same mistake was made during scoping in 2011 and not surprisingly, only one person attended the Monticello meeting. No meetings were offered in Blanding or White Mesa, despite serious public health and environmental impacts that will befall those living near the mill where the federal ore is processed into yellowcake.

L47-33

L47-33 DOE identified the communities and locations that would be reasonably close to the affected communities and provided an opportunity for those affected to attend. See rationale given to public comment 4F in Table B-2 in Appendix B. DOE is confident that the public hearings at Grand Junction, Montrose, Telluride, and Naturita provided the interested members of the public adequate opportunities to participate in a meeting format with regard to accessibility of venues and proximity to where interested members of the public reside.

As explained above, the restricting factor in the DPEIS is the lack of current site-specific data and evidence to support any analysis. The same analytical deficiencies apply to off-site lands within the Uravan Mineral Belt, whether applied to milling, transport, or off-site deposition of pollutants.

4. Mineral And Oil And Gas Development In and Around Lease Tracts

Numerous oil and gas leases and other projects have been proposed on and near the lease tracts. The DPEIS confirms that “[t]here are active oil and gas leases within most of the lease tracts,” but only vaguely references where. DPEIS at 3-191. It appears that BLM, the manager of these leases and cooperating agency on the DPEIS, did not provide site-specific information regarding any of the Mineral Leasing Act activities. Instead, vague reference is made to LR2000 and other internet sources of information. *Id.*

L47-34

L47-34 The cumulative impacts analysis addresses oil and gas leases and projects (see Section 4.7.2.4, Figure 4.7-2, and Table 4.7-8).

Review of litigation documents would confirm that, without conducting any NEPA analysis, OLM has approved BLM’s issuance of oil and gas leases on several of the lease tracts. Delayed FOIA responses prevent analysis of whether or not BLM complied with NEPA or ESA. It is quite likely that DOE and BLM employed a well-known compliance shell game by which each agency claims the other will comply with federal laws, but neither actually complies. Although the OLM may have previously insulated itself from considering the impacts of oil and gas development, the BLM is in possession of numerous records concerning oil and gas exploration, oil and gas production, and oil and gas leases occurring on and around the uranium mining lease tracts. All of these impacts must be assessed in a new DPEIS that analyzes the site-specific impacts of leasing these same federal lands for both fluid mineral and uranium production. It is quite likely that oil and gas leasing is incompatible with uranium production activities and the protection of the public lands.

5. Multiple Use of the Lease Tracts

The DPEIS (3-174) recognizes that the lease tracts remain subject to the multiple use management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act ("FLPMA") which contemplates, "a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." 43 U.S.C. 1702(c).

As was candidly admitted during the 2007 PEA/FONSI, neither OLM nor DOE generally has any experience or expertise in carrying out management of public lands under this multiple use mandate. However, the DPEIS does not reflect the management activities and uses where these lands are co-managed by two agencies under FLPMA and the Atomic Energy Act. This is particularly important since these lands are also part of the larger BLM planning effort, which has not specifically addressed the management of these lease tracts in combination with the surrounding public lands.

The DPEIS wrongly assumes that mining activity displaces grazing and recognizes that grazing takes place on the lease tracts. DPEIS at 3-185- 186. However, cattle not only use graze at these sites, ranchers have set out mineral blocks and water tanks that lure cattle onto the lease sites. No attempt is made to analyze the site-specific conditions these cattle or eventual consumers encounter when cattle lick a mineral supplement or drink from tanks placed on and near uranium mines pads, ore piles, and waste dumps. Where radium, thorium, uranium, selenium, radiation, and other contaminants are readily available to cattle, the DPEIS must analyze this impact and consider an alternative that prohibits grazing in contaminate areas. Of course, surveys must be conducted to identify radiologic and other contamination and then presented in the DPEIS for public review and comment.

D. Reasonable Range of Alternatives and Mitigation Measures

The DPEIS fails to consider all reasonable alternative courses of action, partially because the site-specific information and analysis was not provided. The range of alternatives and lack of site specific data prevents careful analysis and comparison of conditions found across these federal public lands based on actual ecological impacts of this decades-old ULMP.

A joint DOE/OLM program of site characterization should be developed in a new scoping process to ensure a DPEIS is presented for public comment that properly discloses the true scope of impacts, alternatives, and need for federal action to prevent the continuing, unnecessary, and undue degradation of these federal lands.

L47-35 Text in the land use section (see Section 3.7) has been revised to state that mining activities at the lease tracts are expected to discourage cattle from grazing on or near the lease tracts. However, potential radiation dose/risk associated with grazing on a lease tract area after the lease tract is reclaimed is discussed in Section 4.1.5 of the PEIS. The estimates for radiation dose/cancer risk considered nearby residents obtaining their meat/milk needs entirely from their livestock, which is assumed to graze on a large waste rock pile in the lease tract for the entire duration. The livestock is also assumed to consume grass grown on the waste rocks and contaminated soil while grazing. The waste rocks were conservatively assumed to have a concentration of 23.7 pCi/g for Ra-226 (as well as for other radionuclides in the decay chain). This value is about 7 times the average measured concentration taken from waste rock samples. A maximum dose of 28 mrem/yr, with a corresponding LCF of 1 in 100,000 per year, was estimated. If the waste rocks would be covered with a layer of top material during reclamation, the radiation dose would be much lower. A more realistic estimate considering livestock grazing on an open area in a lease tract with residual surface contamination was also provided in the DPEIS. The estimated radiation dose is 2 mrem/yr (corresponding with an LCF of 1 in 1,000,000 per year). Furthermore, the meat/milk needs of a resident would most likely also come from other sources.

L47-36 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS is adequate to support any of the alternatives.

The evaluations conducted for the PEIS were based on site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). The information is adequate to support the alternatives evaluated and for making fully informed decisions relative to any of the alternatives. Although site-specific information for future mines is not available until the lessees submit specific mine plans, information is available from past mining activities (e.g., cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, waste-rock and ore characteristics, and transportation practices and routes) and is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future mining activities for the five alternatives including a thorough cumulative effects analysis. The site-specific information consulted for the PEIS is summarized in Section 1.3 of this PEIS.

1. No Action Alternative

A proper “no action” alternative is not provided analysis and comparison against the action alternatives. Instead, the DPEIS proposes to leave unlawfully issued leases in place and to continue the 2007 programmatic decisions without alteration. DPEIS at S-38. By contrast, a NEPA-compliant “no action alternative” would examine the consequences of taking no action to reissue leases, expand the leasing program leases program, or otherwise continue the 1995 approvals which lapsed in 2005. Such a “no action alternative” would establish a scenario to support the need for the action alternatives that include the immediate actions necessary to achieve immediate stabilization and long-term reclamation of each tract.

Unfortunately, the poor conditions that result from no action at the sites does not require hypothetical. No maintenance or other activity has taken place at many of the lease tracts since the permanent injunction issued in 2011. Although Cotter has carried out some activities, court-mandated summaries of actual activities at Cotter leases has not been provided, with DOE providing mere examples of maintenance activities that might have been carried out during the injunction.

Instead of providing a no action alternative that would confirm the need for further reclamation and remedial activities, Alternative 5 (ULMP goes forward “exactly as it was approved in the July 2007 PEA/FONSI”) is the “no action” alternative relied upon in the DPEIS. Reaffirming decisions made in 2007 on 1995 decisions that lapsed in 2005, without first complying with NEPA, ESA, NHPA, and other laws cannot be lawfully deemed a “no action alternative” in a 2013 NEPA analysis. This is particularly true where the 2007 PEA/FONSI was declared illegal by the district court.

While the no action alternative is important to examine during comparison of alternatives, the contaminated condition of the lease tracts, even those that were supposedly reclaimed, likely precludes adoption of a “no action” alternative. However, a NEPA-compliant “no action” alternative must still be presented and seriously analyzed as a means to compare the action alternatives, even if its adoption is unlikely or infeasible. Comparison of the action alternatives to a true No Action is an important feature of NEPA that must be included in a new DPEIS.

2. Reserve, Reclaim, and Renewable Alternative

Although requested in the scoping notice, a sixth alternative should include the analysis of the reclamation and reserve purposes of DPEIS Alternative 1 (reclaim and manage without issuing leases), combined with the imposition of reclamation standards that would allow the brownfields created at some mines, such as Opera Box, to be used for renewable energy production. A similar solar brownfield program has been pursued at both the Rifle and Durango uranium tailings disposal sites. However, not all lease tracts are suited to renewable energy program due to remote locations and important ecological values.

L47-37

L47-37 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

DOE has properly formulated the no action alternative in accordance with CEQ regulations and guidance (Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ]: *Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ’s NEPA Regulations* [46 FR 18026 (March 23, 1981) as amended] regarding “No Action” in the context of a program. CEQ guidance describes two interpretations of “No Action.” For a program, “No action” means no changes from current management direction, as under Alternative 5. For a project, “No Action” means “the proposed activity would not take place,” as under Alternatives 1 and 2. In any case, this PEIS analyzes both interpretations and comparatively presents them so that the impacts of all reasonable alternatives can be understood on an absolute and relative basis.

L47-38

L47-38 In the case of Rifle and Durango, the sites identified, DOE has the jurisdictional authority to work with developers for alternative uses of these sites. In the case of the ULP program the withdrawals do not provide DOE with that authority as it remains with BLM. The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the “Purpose and Need” discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

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E. Impacts – Beneficial and Adverse

The comments from the public, local government, and federal agencies in the administrative record filed with the district court in the pending litigation identify most of the impacts that need to be analyzed in the DPEIS. However, the comments of BLM and others were largely ignored. Because the materials are already in DOE’s possession, the entire administrative record filed in *CEC v. Office of Legacy Management*, 08-cv-01624-WJM –MJW is incorporated here by reference.

The declarations and briefs filed during the litigation are also included by reference in these comments, as they provide information regarding the impacts that must be analyzed in the DPEIS.

Further, the DPEIS simply dismisses, with any analysis, the potential benefits of reserving the federal uranium while stimulating local employment by requiring prompt reclamation. These issues were raised in detail by the scoping comments and are reasserted here.

F. Cooperating Agencies

Although various local, state, and federal agencies with jurisdiction to review/approve any aspect of the Energy Fuels mill must be included as either cooperating or co-lead agencies in the PEIS, water supply and milling impacts are simply ignored. S-22. Although Freedom of Information Act requests have gone unfulfilled, documents obtained and reviewed so far indicate the Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Reclamation have jurisdiction and control of uranium mining and milling activities that are currently under review, and must be included as cooperating agencies and must complete Section 7 Consultation before taking any action regarding the mining and milling of ULMP uranium.

Further, USGS has extensive expertise in pollution associated with uranium mining and milling, including the ongoing problems at Energy Fuels’ mill, located near White Mesa, Utah. Not only was USGS not invited to participate, several key USGS reports and findings regarding impacts of uranium mining and milling in the region are not addressed in the DPEIS, despite being provided in previous comments and litigation filings.

G. Interim Activities

During the preparation of a new DPEIS, OLM should begin a program of interim maintenance and site stabilization based on site specific environmental assessments that include meaningful public comment on the draft environmental assessments. Although site-specific NEPA analysis has not been conducted since 1994, extensive data collection was not conducted for the DPEIS. Data collection and site surveys should be considered part of the interim maintenance and site stabilization.

Colorado DRMS is engaged in efforts to remedy longstanding violations of the Mined Land Reclamation Act by DOE and its lessees. These state proceedings will likely result in activities necessary to comply with state orders. OLM is aware of the proceedings and the need for NEPA

L47-39

L47-39 See response to L47-38.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L47-40

L47-40 U.S. EPA is a cooperating agency and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) does not have jurisdiction over the ULP. BOR activities at Paradox Valley are described in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.9. The Draft PEIS was sent to the Department of the Interior (DOI), which provided comments. The DOI-BLM is a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process.

L47-41

L47-41 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS. State regulations and orders are being followed and lessees are required to meet State and federal laws. A Biological Assessment (BA) has been prepared as part of the consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA. This BA and the Biological Opinion from the USWFS are included in the PEIS as Appendix E. PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and pertinent sections in Chapter 2 and 4.

DOE has appropriately prepared this PEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council of Environmental Quality’s NEPA regulations, and DOE’s NEPA implementing procedures. DOE does not need or plan to prepare a new DPEIS.

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and ESA compliance. Failure to prepare a lawful DPEIS cannot excuse OLM and its lessees from compliance with state and federal laws. Unfortunately, that is exactly what the federal lessees have been promoting during recent proceedings before Colorado's Mined Land Reclamation Board.

L47-41
(Cont.)

The DPEIS does not reveal that ore stockpiles have simply been dumped back into the mine where adequate permits and protections of water quality were not in place (JD-8). The DPEIS does not reveal how some lease tract operations may or may not have met new Clean Water Act permit conditions that required immediate construction of mitigation for contaminated point source discharges (JD-7, JD-9). Despite the construction of new water management structures at these sites (JD-7, JD-9), DOE conducted no site-specific NEPA review and indeed fails in the DPEIS to acknowledge this work or identify its effectiveness as mitigation as surface water contamination control. Further, there is no recognition that none of the lessees intend to bring the lease tracts into production in the foreseeable future.

L47-42

L47-42 CDRMS directed Cotter to remove the ore stockpile by either shipping it or relocating it back underground. Cotter returned the stockpile to the underground mine under the direction of CDRMS. Mine JD-8 is a dry mine.

Last the DPEIS ignores that fact that many necessary permits and approvals are not in place for these lease tracts, including radon emissions approvals required by the Clean Air Act, stormwater and discharge approvals required by the Clean Water Act, consultation under the Endangered Species Act, and Environmental Protection Plans required by the Mined Land Reclamation Act.

The time for lessees to conduct interim stabilization has passed where unabated violations exist and some of these sites. Although the comprehensive clean-up program must be analyzed within a full NEPA process, action to invalidate specific leases should be considered for tracts in current violation of state law. In particular, most of the Slick Rock tracts lack Environmental Protection Plans, valid mining plans, Colorado has ordered the federal lessee to comply with Colorado law or conduct permanent reclamation. Instead of compliance, the lessee has chosen permanent reclamation option. That said, the guise of interim protections or remedy of violations of Colorado laws cannot be allowed to avoid the programmatic and site specific NEPA analyses that is needed to address and remedy the past impacts of uranium mining.

L47-43

L47-43 DOE believes all the necessary permits and approvals are in place for these lease tracts.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species/Migratory Birds/Other Wildlife

Ongoing DOE consultation with the USFWS was confirmed by the April 17, 2013 email from Ray Pleiness to the USFWS confirming that the multi-federal agency action that includes the ULMP, Piñon Ridge uranium mill, and other components of federal uranium complex "is likely to adversely affect" federally listed species. Exh. 5 However, requested agency records, including the Biological Assessments, Biological Opinion, field surveys, data, and other analytic documents, have not been released by DOE, BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, or USFWS despite FOIA requests filed in March 2013.

L47-44

L47-44 The PEIS analysis considered site-specific and cumulative impacts, including all contaminants of concern.

Because the information include in scoping comments appears to have been ignored, those comments, the 60 day notice of intent to sue, and litigation documents regarding ESA-listed species are incorporated here by reference, for sake of brevity.

A Biological Assessment (BA) has been prepared as part of the consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA. This BA and the Biological Opinion from the USFWS are included in the PEIS as Appendix E. PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and pertinent sections in Chapters 2 and 4.

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Additional impacts that have been revealed and/or confirmed since scoping comment period closed in 2011. Federal approvals are required delivery of wet water to Piñon Ridge Mill that Energy Fuels plans to operate at 1500 ton per day capacity for some or all of the life of the mill, must be analyzed. These proposed depletions and diversions from the San Miguel River, Dolores River, and McPhee Reservoir are under current consideration by Bureau of Reclamation (Exh. 3) and BLM (Exh. 4), although the DPEIS does not make mention of either of these federal agency actions.

Uranium and ammonia are mentioned as impacting ESA-listed fish, but impacts of selenium, iron, radium, and various heavy metals are ignored. Pollution is identified in USFWS documents as a critical factor in avoiding jeopardy and extinction to protected species, but the DPEIS does not disclose or analyze the direct, indirect, or cumulative impact of a region-wide resurgence of uranium mining and milling. Site-specific and cumulative impacts to the ESA-listed and other sensitive species in the upper reaches of the Colorado River system must be disclosed in a new DPEIS that takes into account the actual pollutants of concern, particularly selenium and radium. The need to prepare and release a new DPEIS that addresses all listed and sensitive species is confirmed by an analysis of specific species.

1. Federally Endangered Fish

The DPEIS fails to address public scoping comments relating to endangered fish. As scoping comments noted, four federally endangered fish species are likely to be negatively affected by the leasing: the razorback sucker, the humpback chub, the bonytail chub and the Colorado pikeminnow. All four of the endangered Colorado River fish species may be present in the Colorado River just downstream from the confluence with the Dolores. In addition, some individuals of Colorado pikeminnow may be present in the Dolores River.

The Colorado pikeminnow was known to occur historically in the Dolores River as far upstream as the Paradox Valley (upstream from the confluence with the San Miguel River). Colorado pikeminnow were recorded in the river as recently as 1991, when four pikeminnow were captured within the lower 1.2 miles of the Dolores River¹. The razorback sucker may occur in the Colorado River downstream from the confluence with the Dolores River and is stocked in the Colorado River upstream of the confluence with the Dolores River².

There are relatively large and healthy populations of humpback chub in the Colorado River near the confluence with the Dolores River³. One of the very few remaining wild populations of bonytail occurs in the Colorado River upstream from the confluence with the Dolores River, and since 1996 bonytail have been stocked in the Colorado River in Utah near the confluence with the Dolores River.²³ In addition, critical habitat for all four of the endangered Colorado River

¹ Valdez, R.A., Masslich, W.J, and Wasowicz, A. 1992. Dolores River native fish habitat suitability study in Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, ed: Salt Lake City, UT.

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Programmatic biological opinion for water depletions associated with Bureau of Land Management's fluid mineral program within the Upper Colorado River Basin in Colorado in Ecological Services Office, ed: Grand Junction, CO.

³ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Programmatic biological opinion for water depletions associated with Bureau of Land Management's fluid mineral program within the Upper Colorado River Basin in Colorado in Ecological Services Office, ed: Grand Junction, CO.

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L47-45

L47-45 Additional information pertaining to the life history, distribution, occurrence, and threats of the Colorado River endangered fish has been considered and incorporated in the Final PEIS (see Section 3.6).

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fish has been designated in portions of the Colorado River downstream from the confluence of the Dolores River.

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Roads that may be used to transport materials to and from the lease parcels may cross occupied and critical habitat for all four endangered Colorado River fish species. The proposed leasing may affect these fish species in several ways. Streamflow regulation, habitat modification, competition and predation with nonnative fish species, pesticides and pollutants, are major threats to all four of the endangered CO river fish species. The reduction of flows in streams and rivers, due to the cumulative impacts of diversion of water, is one of the primary factors in the decline of these species.

L47-46

L47-46 PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Section 4.3.6.4. Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. These measures include measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to waterbodies and aquatic habitats for aquatic biota such as these fish species (M-4). The BA and the BO from the USFWS regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA have been included in this Final PEIS as Appendix E.

Degradation of water quality due to pesticides and pollutants has been implicated as a major factor in the declines of the four endangered Colorado River fish. Threats from pesticides and pollutants include accidental spills of petroleum products and hazardous materials, discharge of pollutants from uranium mill tailings and mines, and high selenium concentration in the water and food chain. Accidental spills of hazardous material into occupied habitat, and discharge of pollutants from uranium operations can cause mortality when lethal toxicity levels are exceeded. Discharge of pollutants can also result in chronic toxicity that negatively impacts survival and reproduction over time. Ore transport along roads adjacent to the Dolores River and its tributaries, and the Colorado River, could result in spills that would introduce ore and sediment containing elevated concentrations of many chemical and radioactive constituents to these water bodies. Road maintenance, including blading and the addition of magnesium chloride and sand to road surfaces could introduce additional sediments and chemical pollutants to the Dolores River and its tributaries. Vehicle, equipment cleaning, fueling and oil and chemical spills could introduce hydrocarbons, solvents, and other chemicals to soils and surface waters. These activities may degrade water quality, and negatively impact the four endangered Colorado River fish species.

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L47-47 See Response to L47-46.

In addition, past activities, including past uranium mining and processing on ULP lease tracts and in the surrounding region, oil and gas development, and irrigation in areas with soils high in selenium, have resulted in water quality problems in the Dolores and Colorado Rivers. For example, uranium mill tailings on the DOE lease tracts near the Dolores River contaminated the alluvial aquifer with uranium, selenium, manganese, molybdenum, nitrate, radium 226, radium 228, benzene, and toluene. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2007), "Uranium processing facilities operated during the late 1940's through the 1960's severely impacted the river and may have contributed to the decline of Colorado pikeminnow in the Dolores River drainage."⁴ Valdez et al. (2002) found that, "Native fish composition and abundance were found to be poor downstream of the San Miguel confluence, a river reach heavily impacted by poor water quality due to uranium tailings". Ongoing and future activities in the area, including uranium mining, oil and gas development, and irrigation, are also resulting in increased pollution in the Dolores and Colorado River basins. Proposed uranium mines and mills in the area (including the Whirlwind mine, the recently licensed Pinon Ridge mill, and the Paradox uranium

L47-48

L47-48 In the PEIS, water use estimates are discussed for each alternative in Section 2.2. Impacts to sensitive aquatic biota (including the Colorado River endangered fish) were evaluated based on these water use assumptions. Due to uncertainty on specific mine locations and activities, it is speculative to provide more detailed analyses of potential impacts to sensitive species. Site-specific analyses would be provided in the EPPs developed for individual mines. The EPP prepared for individual mines will address mitigation measures in greater detail. The Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and BLM will have input on mitigation actions required under the ULP during their review of the EPP. Cumulative impacts of the ULP on sensitive fish species include impacts of other activities and are discussed in Section 4.7.

⁴U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. Recovery implementation program recovery action plan: recovery implementation program for endangered fish species in the upper Colorado River Basin in Region 6, ed: Denver, CO. See also Valdez RA, Masslich WJ, Wasowicz A. 1992. Dolores River native fish habitat suitability study in Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, ed: Salt Lake City, UT.

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mill) may also result in runoff and discharge of contaminants into the Dolores River basin. In fact, discharge of treated water from dewatering activities at the Whirlwind Mine has exceeded state water quality standards for uranium and selenium on several occasions. Water pollution that will result from the development of the lease tracts may have direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the four endangered Colorado River fish species. The DPEIS must analyze the cumulative impacts of current leasing with other impacts on the fish.

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The proposed leasing may result in discharges or runoff of pollutants that may be toxic to fish and other aquatic life, including uranium, selenium, ammonia, arsenic molybdenum, aluminum, barium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, vanadium and zinc. These pollutants may also be introduced to the Dolores and Colorado River via atmospheric deposition and subsequent runoff of contaminants.

The DOE has not adequately analyzed the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of water contamination that could result from the proposed leasing on the four endangered Colorado River fish and other sensitive aquatic and riparian species. It is imperative that the DOE consider the effects of degraded water quality that may result from the proposed leasing, mining activity and associated uranium milling activities – particularly in combination with the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable water degrading activities. Past uranium mining and processing along the Dolores River, oil and gas development, and irrigation in areas with soils high in selenium have already caused water quality problems in the Dolores and Colorado Rivers. For example, uranium mill tailings on DOE lease tracts near the Dolores River contaminated the alluvial aquifer with uranium, selenium, manganese, molybdenum, nitrate, radium 226, radium 228, benzene, and toluene during the last uranium boom in the Dolores River watershed.

Water quality impacts could result from all of the following activities that will occur as part of mining operations on ULP lease tracts: vegetation removal and clearing, mine water discharge, ore stockpiling, waste rock storage, ore transport, road maintenance, motorized vehicle and equipment cleaning and fueling, oil and chemical spills etc. Accelerated sediment erosion could occur from increased soil compaction and reduced infiltration as a result of vegetation removal, resulting in sediment transport and eventual deposition in the Dolores River and its tributaries. On some lease tracts, mine water containing elevated levels of a number of pollutants may be pumped from mines, treated, and discharged into the Dolores River, or permanent or ephemeral streams that flow into the Dolores River. Precipitation falling on ore stockpiles, waste rock stockpiles, and other contaminated areas within the mine project sites would pick up pollutants and become stormwater. Ore transport along roads adjacent to the Dolores River and its tributaries, and the Colorado River, could result in spills that would introduce ore and sediment containing elevated concentrations of many chemical and radioactive constituents to these water bodies. Road maintenance, including blading and the addition of magnesium chloride and sand to road surfaces could introduce additional sediments and chemical pollutants to the Dolores river and its tributaries. Vehicle, equipment cleaning, fueling and oil and chemical spills could introduce hydrocarbons, solvents, and other chemicals to soils and surface waters.

L47-49

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Potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of water quality to sensitive aquatic biota (including the Colorado River endangered fish) are discussed in the PEIS. The effects of additional metals (e.g., selenium, iron, and radium) on biota from uranium mining have been reviewed and text for the Colorado River fishes has been revised accordingly. The PEIS identifies several avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce impacts of water quality. These measures are identified in Table 4.6-1.

Selenium is an element of particular concern, as elevated selenium can be taken up directly from water by aquatic organisms, resulting in acute toxicity at relatively high concentrations, and

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accumulate in the aquatic food chain. This can result in myriad adverse effects on fish and waterfowl populations, including impaired reproduction, deformities, reduced survival and other problems. Selenium contamination in the Colorado River basin has been implicated in the decline of the four endangered Colorado River fish species, and may be impeding their recovery. Selenium could leach from ore and waste-rock stockpiles, and enter the Dolores River and its tributaries via runoff of contaminated sediments during precipitation events, particularly large storm events and floods. Even runoff of very small amounts of selenium could result in accumulation of selenium-contaminated sediments in waterways over time, and cumulatively significant impacts on aquatic life through accumulation and bio-magnification in the food chain. There is evidence that high selenium levels may adversely affect reproduction and recruitment in these fishes. Selenium also tends to concentrate in low velocity areas that are important habitats for the Colorado pikeminnow and razorback suckers. It is critically important to note that runoff or discharge of water with very low concentrations of selenium can result in adverse impacts on fish (as well as other aquatic species, and terrestrial species that consume fish). One study in waters downstream from uranium mining and milling operations in Canada found that in areas where water concentrations of selenium are very low (less than or equal to 1ug/L, and lower than the 5ug/L water criterion established by U.S. EPA), selenium has been incorporated into the food chain via primary producers, gradually built up in sediments and benthic biota, and reached levels that have the potential to cause reproductive impairment in fish. In addition, a short pulse event can quickly load an aquatic environment with selenium, and that selenium could then be conserved in the ecosystem for long periods of time.⁵ The Dolores River currently has elevated levels of selenium, in part due to past Uranium mining and milling activities in the UraVan mineral belt.

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In an email dated April 17, 2013, from Tracy Ribeiro of the Department of Energy to Patty Gelatt of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it was disclosed that the Uranium Leasing Program may affect and are likely to adversely affect the four fish species.⁶ The DPEIS does not reflect this change in classification of the anticipated impacts. DOE must analyze the impacts on the fish based on this increased assumption. Without such analysis DOE's decision to lease these parcels is arbitrary and capricious.

2. BLM "Sensitive" Fish

Leasing would also impact three sensitive species of fish in the Dolores River through aquifer drawdown and contamination: bluehead sucker, flannelmouth sucker, and roundtail chub.⁷ The

L47-50

L47-50 DOE has reviewed the analyses in this PEIS in light of the two exhibits mentioned in the attachments and determined that the analyses are adequate. The exhibits are not reproduced in this Appendix but are, however, summarized below:

Exhibit 8: Lower Dolores River Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Plan

Exhibit 8 consists of the *Executive Summary The Lower Dolores River Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Plan For Native Fish*. The *Summary* provides background information about modifications to the Dolores River, including water diversions and the construction of McPhee Dam in 1984, and changing uses of the Dolores River. The *Summary* describes recent actions and current status of the river, pointing out that the Dolores River Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Implementation Plan) describes the efforts that are being undertaken to improve populations of endangered fish while preserving and possibly enhancing the many values that the river provides to the surrounding communities. The *Summary* highlights the participating stakeholders, such as the Dolores River Dialogue (DRD), Lower Dolores Working Group (LDWG) and the Implementation Team members. The *Summary* goes on to describe how the Implementation Plan addresses management opportunities identified by fisheries scientists and how the Implementation Team will assess and ensure native fish viability. The *Summary* concludes by noting that Implementation Team members continue to seek broadly accepted solutions to protect and enhance the long-term viability of native fish populations in the Dolores River below McPhee Dam.

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⁵ Such effects may not be limited to the four endangered Colorado River fish species. Runoff or discharge of water with very low concentrations of selenium can result in adverse impacts on many species of fish and fish-eating waterfowl and mammals. One study in waters downstream from uranium mining and milling operations in Canada found that in areas where water concentrations of selenium are very low, selenium has been incorporated into the food chain via primary producers, gradually built up in sediments and benthic biota, and reached levels that have the potential to cause reproductive impairment in fish. In addition, a short pulse event can quickly load an aquatic environment with selenium, and that selenium could then be conserved in the ecosystem for long periods of time. Muscatello JR, Belknap AM, Janz DM. 2008.

⁶ See Exh 5, April 19, 2013 email RE: Revisions planned on BA for the Department of Energy Uranium Leasing Program (DOE ULP)

⁷ See: Exh 7, STATUS AND TRENDS OF FLANNELMOUTH SUCKER CATOSTOMUS LATIPINNIS, BLUEHEAD SUCKER CATOSTOMUS DISCOBOLUS, AND ROUNDTAIL CHUB GILA ROBUSTA, IN THE

impacts on these fish will be similar to those described for the ESA listed fish species.⁸ However, the close proximity of leasing and development to habitat for these fish will exacerbate these impacts.⁹ DOE should have considered The Lower Dolores River Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Plan for Native Fish.¹⁰ DOE must analyze how leasing these parcels will affect these sensitive fish species. The DPEIS offers only a cursory analysis of impacts to these species. Importantly, the DPEIS does not consider the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of water depletion on these species, despite the fact that low baseflows due to the cumulative impacts of water diversion has been identified as a major factor in the ongoing decline of these sensitive species. Further, the DPEIS contains no discussion of the cumulative impacts of the proposed action on these fish species.

3. Gunnison's Sage Grouse

The EA makes a "not likely to adversely affect determination" for Gunnison sage-grouse. This determination is based on an inadequate analysis of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on Gunnison sage-grouse. On January 11, 2013, the USFWS proposed to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/gunnisonsagegrouse/78FR2486.pdf>), and proposed to designate critical habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse (<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/gunnisonsagegrouse/78FR2540.pdf>), see maps of proposed critical habitat at <http://www.fws.gov/coloradoes/gusg/>) These proposed rules contain information on the status of Gunnison sage-grouse, threats to Gunnison sage-grouse and critical habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse, that was available prior to publication of the DPEIS on March 15th, 2013, but was not considered in the analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed action on Gunnison sage-grouse. This constitutes the best available science on Gunnison sage-grouse, and significant new information. The DPEIS analysis of impacts of the proposed action is incomplete without consideration of this information, rendering the finding of "not likely to adversely affect" for Gunnison sage-grouse arbitrary and capricious.

The DPEIS also fails to adequately analyze the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on Gunnison sage-grouse. A number of the lease tracts occur within or adjacent to occupied habitat and proposed critical habitat, and roads that will likely be used to access the lease tracts are within or adjacent to occupied and proposed critical habitat. The DPEIS fails to adequately analyze the impacts of loss and fragmentation of sagebrush habitat due to development of the lease parcels. Gunnison sage-grouse are dependent on expansive, contiguous areas of sagebrush habitat to meet their life-history needs. Habitat loss and fragmentation due to energy development infrastructure is expected to have significant negative impacts on Gunnison sage-grouse. Development associated with the lease tracts will cumulatively contribute to the direct and functional loss of sagebrush habitat, and adversely affect the species by limiting already scarce habitat occupied by very small populations already at risk of extinction due to small

DOLORES RIVER, COLORADO, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR POPULATION IMPROVEMENT: PHASE II REPORT.

⁸ See Exh 8 Executive Summary The Lower Dolores River Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Plan For Native Fish (attached)

⁹ See Exh 9 Dolores River – Nonpoint Source Pollution Watershed Plan (attached)

¹⁰ See Exh 10.

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Exhibit 9: Dolores River – Nonpoint Source Pollution Watershed Plan

Exhibit 9 consists of the *Dolores River Nonpoint Source Pollution Watershed Management Plan* (the *Plan*). The *Plan* describes some of the results of a collaborative watershed planning effort to identify nonpoint sources of pollution that may be impacting aquatic life in the Lower Dolores River, additional information needed about such nonpoint source pollution, and potential management opportunities and other actions to reduce any such impacts. The particular focus of the *Plan* is the conservation of native fish. The *Plan* compiles information on the history and development of the Lower Dolores River watershed, assembles available water quality data and information for the Lower Dolores River, and identifies nonpoint pollutants concern for native fish, potential sources of nonpoint source pollution, data gaps, and potential management actions to mitigate the sources of nonpoint source pollution. Water quality parameters including temperature, sediment, uranium, salinity, and nutrients, most of which are generally at levels that comply with water quality standards established by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, are the focus of the *Plan*. These parameters are thought to have potential to be stressors on native fish reproduction and survival in the Lower Dolores River. Therefore, the *Plan* is intended to identify opportunities to mitigate such stressors, even for parameters that do not exceed regulatory thresholds.

Information on the Gunnison sage-grouse is provided in Sections 3.6.4, 4.1.6.4, and 4.3.6.4. As discussed in these sections, potentially suitable habitat for this species may occur in several lease tracts. However, based on information provided by industry and CPW, the species has not been recorded on any of the lease tracts. On January 11, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposed to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species under the ESA. At that time, the Service proposed to designate 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for the species. The most recent available information for the Gunnison sage-grouse, including updated geospatial data pertaining to the species' critical habitat, has been used to update the Final PEIS. Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1.

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population size and genetic issues. The USFWS notes that this is of particular concern within the six smaller populations, which include the populations at issue here. The DPEIS fails to adequately consider the extent to which the infrastructure required for development of the lease tracts will contribute to direct, indirect (via behavioral avoidance of habitat) and cumulative loss and fragmentation of already scarce Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.

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The DPEIS fails to adequately analyze the impacts of construction, maintenance and increased use of roads that will result from development of the lease tracts, including, but not limited to direct habitat loss, direct mortality, barriers to migration corridors or seasonal habitats, facilitation of predation, spread of invasive vegetative species, noise, and increased human disturbance. The DPEIS fails to adequately analyze the impacts of construction of powerlines needed to bring power to the lease tracts, including direct impacts due to powerlines posing a collision and electrocution hazard, indirect effects of decreasing lek recruitment, increasing predation, fragmenting habitat, and facilitating the invasion of exotic annual plants. Further, the DPEIS fails to adequately analyze the impacts of contaminants on Gunnison sage-grouse.

In addition, the DPEIS provides no analysis of the cumulative effects of the proposed action in combination with other reasonably foreseeable future actions in the region on Gunnison sage-grouse, including, but not limited to the proposed Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill. Finally, the DPEIS states that "Given the implementation of appropriate minimization and mitigation measures, ULP activities under Alternative 1 may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, the Gunnison sage-grouse." However, the DPEIS does not specify what mitigation measures will be applied or include an analysis of the likelihood of effectiveness of mitigation measures and mitigating impacts to Gunnison sage-grouse. The DPEIS relies on a vague promise of application of unspecified mitigation measures, which does not provide adequate certainty that mitigation measures will limit impacts such that the proposed action is "not likely to adversely affect" Gunnison sage-grouse.

L47-52

L47-52 See response to L47-51.

Additional impacts that have been revealed and/or confirmed since scoping was conducted in 2011, Depletions for the mill that Energy Fuels plans to operate at 1500 ton per day capacity for some or all of the life of the mill, must be analyzed.

Uranium and ammonia are mentioned as impacting ESA-listed fish, but impacts of selenium, iron, radium, and various heavy metals are ignored. Pollution is identified in USFWS documents as a critical factor in avoiding jeopardy and extinction, but the DPEIS does not disclose or analyze the direct, indirect, or cumulative impact of a region-wide resurgence of uranium mining and milling. Site-specific and cumulative impacts to the ESA-listed fish in the upper reaches of the Colorado River system must be disclosed in a new DPEIS that takes into account the actual pollutants of concern, particularly selenium and radium.

4. Gunnison's Prairie Dog

The DPEIS makes an "unlikely to adversely affect" determination for Gunnison's prairie dog. This determination is based on an inadequate, incomplete and unresponsive analysis of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of uranium mines, exploration, mining, reclamation, transportation, milling and other related activities.

L47-53

L47-53 Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. For the Gunnison's prairie dog, it was determined that, with the implementation of these measures, the ULP activities may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect the species.

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The DPEIS states that (a) “[M]ining activity might increase the exposure of wildlife to uranium and other radioactive decay products and to other chemical elements,” (b) negative impacts to mammals from uranium radionuclides occur “from 0.004 to 40.0 mGy/h,” (c) “species that spend considerable amounts of time underground in caves, mines, or burrows could potentially inhale, ingest, or be directly exposed to uranium and other radionuclides while digging, eating, preening, and/or hibernating,” (d) herbivores could be “exposed by ingesting radionuclides that aerially deposited on vegetation or concentrated in surface waters at or near mine sites,” and (e) “in isolated hot spots, concentrations (of radionuclides) may be several times higher than recommended guidelines.” DPEIS at 4-113.

The DPEIS goes on to state that (a) Gunnison’s prairie dogs burrow in “well-drained soils,” (b) “can exhibit periods of inactivity during winter that last for months,” that (d) “individuals in some parts of the range hibernate,” that (e) “their diet consists mainly of grasses, forbs, sedges and shrubs” and (f) “have experienced long-term population decline of 30-70%” and, as a result, “became a candidate for Federal listing on February 5, 2008.” Id at E-20. The DPEIS goes on to say that “listed species, because of their low populations, would be far more sensitive to impacts than more common and widespread species. Their small population makes these species more vulnerable to the effects of habitat fragmentation, habitat alteration, habitat degradation, human disturbance and harassment, mortality of individuals, and the loss of genetic diversity.” Thus, the imperiled Gunnison’s prairie dog exhibits the exact population vulnerabilities, habitat requirements and life history strategies that the DPEIS indicates would make a species particularly prone to radionuclide exposure resulting from ULP activities, including “in isolated hot spots” where concentrations “may be several times higher than recommended guidelines.” Id at 4-113.

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Yet, without any discussion of the relevance of these facts to Gunnison’s prairie dogs, the DPEIS at Table 4.3-8 inexplicably concludes that activities under the ULP “may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, the Gunnison’s prairie dog.” The DPEIS fails to establish negative effect exposure thresholds for Gunnison’s prairie dog; it lacks discussion of the species’ particular vulnerability to exposure; it lacks discussion of where, on a site-specific basis, populations currently exist in relation to existing and potential future exploration and mining sites; it lacks a discussion of the current population size within and immediately beyond the ULP, and fails to establish monitoring protocols to detecting mortality or thresholds for mortality rates or numbers that, if met or exceeded, could be expected to result in population-level impacts. The lack of these and other such analyses renders DOE’s conclusion of “not likely to affect” arbitrary and capricious.

5. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

The DPEIS makes an “unlikely to adversely affect” determination for southwestern willow flycatcher. This determination is based on an incomplete, inadequate and unresponsive analysis of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of exploration, mining, reclamation, transportation, milling and other activities on the species.

The DPEIS states that, “The greatest threat to southwestern willow flycatcher is the loss or degradation of riparian habitat. Potential threats... that may be associated with ULP activities include facility development, water withdrawal, and increased human presence. Direct habitat loss may occur from the development of mining facilities and access roads. Reduction of water in riparian habitats degrades habitat that is essential to the southwestern willow flycatcher

L47-54

L47-54 Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. For the southwestern willow flycatcher, it was determined that, with the implementation of these measures, the ULP activities may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect the species.

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habitat. Human disturbances at nesting sites resulting from human presence or traffic noise may result in nest abandonment. Additional threats include fire, livestock grazing, brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbird.” DPEIS at E-16. It states that, “Program activities on all lease tracts under Alternative 3 (and therefore 4) could affect this species” and that “indirect impacts on the species or its habitat from water withdrawals, noise, runoff, sedimentation, fugitive dust deposition, or those related to radiation exposure might be possible.” DPEIS at Table 4.3.8.

The DPEIS lacks any analysis of the current quantity and location of occupied and potential suitable habitat of southwestern willow flycatcher in relation to the ULP lease tracts, transpiration systems, or milling sites. It lacks any analysis of the quantity and quality of disturbance to that occupied and potential suitable habitat, or how such disturbance would relate to recovery goals for southwestern willow flycatcher under the Endangered Species Act. While it lists brood parasitism from brown-headed cowbirds as a potential threat, the DPEIS lacks an analysis of how and where ULP activities, singularly and in combination with livestock grazing, fire, and other management, might enhance brown-headed cowbird populations, and, in turn, how southwestern willow flycatchers may be subject to increased brood parasitism. Similarly, the DPEIS lacks a sufficient analysis of biological exposure pathways for southwestern willow flycatcher (and other insectivorous species) that may bio-accumulate radiological and toxic compounds mobilized by ULP activities into soil, water, air, vegetation, and invertebrate (prey) populations. The DPEIS similarly fails to establish clear exposure thresholds for biological effects to southwestern willow flycatcher and fails to discuss the potential for ULMP activities enabling those thresholds to be met. It fails to quantify or analyze the likelihood of a threshold for “take” that would be expected to preclude recovery goals established in the Endangered Species Act as a result of ULP activities. The DPEIS fails to discuss if and how much water withdrawals resulting from the ULP, other depleting activities, drought and climate change would affect occupied and potential suitable habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher (or other species, like yellow-billed cuckoo) in the action area; it fails also to describe relationships between water depletion and anticipated habitat loss, and how habitat loss would correspond to thresholds for take necessary to ensure recovery pursuant to ESA.

Absent such analyses and supporting data, the DPEIS’ conclusions that, “direct impacts on the species or its habitat (riparian woodlands) are unlikely to occur,” and that the ULP activities “may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, the southwestern willow flycatcher” are unsupported, conjectural, arbitrary and capricious.

6. Golden and Bald Eagles

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, originally passed in 1940, provides for the protection of the bald eagle and the golden eagle (as amended in 1962) by prohibiting the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg, unless allowed by permit (16 U.S.C. 668(a); 50 CFR 22). “Take” includes pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb (16 U.S.C. 668c; 50 CFR 22.3).

The DPEIS fails to adequately discuss bio-accumulation and biological exposure pathways for bald and golden eagles to uranium and other mining-related contaminants. Prey for bald and

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L47-55 Additional specific discussion of impacts to bald and golden eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act has been included in this PEIS (see Sections 3.6.4, 4.16, and 4.3.6).

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golden eagles, including small burrowing mammals and fish, have the potential to uptake and concentrate contaminants mobilized into soil, air, water, vegetation by mining, exploration, reclamation, transportation and milling activities. Eagles, in turn, can accumulate toxins as they prey on small mammals, fish and other contaminate-exposed prey. By failing to provide a detailed analysis of biological exposure pathways for bald and golden eagles and its prey, and by failing to establish and analyze the potential for meeting toxicity thresholds for eagles, the DPEIS fails to ensure that ULP activities will not “poison, wound, kill... molest or disturb” bald and golden eagles.

7. Bats & White-nose Syndrome

The DPEIS fails to adequately analyze direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of uranium mines, exploration, mining and reclamation activities on bats, including the indirect, cumulative and synergistic effects of mining-related activities on the spread of White-nose syndrome and resulting impacts to bat populations.

The DPEIS altogether fails to analyze the connection between the ULMP and White-nose Syndrome (WNS). First documented in 2006 in a cave in upstate New York, White-nose WNS has since spread to and been confirmed in 17 more states and four Canadian provinces. The fungal pathogen associated with the disease has been found on bats in two additional states, including western Oklahoma, which places it dramatically closer to the western United States. At least one million bats have died.

In affected bat colonies, mortality rates reach nearly 100 percent, virtually emptying caves once harboring tens of thousands of bats and leaving cave floors littered with small bones. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”) has called WNS the “worst wildlife health crisis in memory”. WNS now threatens more than half of North American bat species, including four of the six endangered bat species in the United States. WNS threatens even once-common species like the little brown bat, which is now considered to be in imminent danger of extinction due to the threat of WNS.

Because of the transport of the disease by people, activities envisioned in the ULMP, including the movement of people and equipment into and out of mine shafts, have the potential to spread WNS among bat populations. To prevent its spread, it is vital that mineshafts in currently WNS-free areas, like and including Colorado and the ULMP tracts, be protected by a strict closure policy. Once WNS is introduced into a new area, bats themselves can transport the fungal pathogen locally, up to a few hundred miles radius. Restricting human access is critical to minimize transport of the fungus; the worst damage will have been done by the initial introduction of the fungus into a new region. The DPEIS fails to analyze or discuss WNS or provide mitigation, like a prohibition on mining activity, that will guard against WNS introduction to and spread within the ULMP and Colorado.

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(Cont.)

L47-56

L47-56 Potential impacts on bats are addressed in Sections 4.1.6.2 and 4.3.6.2 of the PEIS; while measures to minimize potential impacts are provided in Section 4.6. To date, white-nose syndrome has not been reported in Colorado. Until the fungus that causes the disease occurs in Colorado, there would not be the potential for the spread of the disease due to the movement of people and equipment among ULP mines. Also, bats do not tend to make use of active mines (although renewed mining in an inactive mine could be a future concern if the disease is present in Colorado). One of the measures to minimize potential impacts to bats listed in Section 4.6 is the development and enactment of bat mitigation that is coordinated with the Colorado Bat Working Group and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). It is assumed that such mitigation would include following CPW’s “White-Nose Syndrome Response Plan” prepared in 2012, available at: http://static.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/resource/2012cpw_wns_response_plan.pdf and, presumably, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s “A National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats” prepared in 2011, available at: http://static.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/white-nose_syndrome_national_plan_may_2011.pdf.

Energy & Conservation Law, Commenter ID No. L47 (Cont.)

8. Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a Federal law that carries out the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia. Those conventions protect birds that migrate across international borders.

The take of all migratory birds, including bald eagles, is governed by the Migratory Birds Treaty Act's regulations. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests except as authorized under a valid permit (50 CFR 21.11). Additionally, the MBTA authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to determine if, and by what means, the take of migratory birds should be allowed and to adopt suitable regulations permitting and governing take (for example, hunting seasons for ducks and geese).

The DPEIS does not adequately analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of mining, exploration, reclamation, transportation and milling activities on migratory birds or therefore the potential take thereof. These activities have the potential to "take" migratory birds. For example, waste ponds at mines, exploration sites and uranium mills (even netted waste ponds) have the potential to attract, snare, or expose migratory birds to contaminated water, resulting in their mortality. Mining activities have the potential to pollute or deplete water from suitable habitat for migratory birds. Ore trucks can result in direct mortality of species through collision. Road and mine facility construction can directly or indirectly impact migratory species by destroying, displacing or fragmenting their suitable habitat. Biological stresses resulting from such disturbances have the potential to result in "take" migratory birds directly and in synergy with other land uses. For example, authors of these comments have photographed migratory waterfowl (white-faced ibis) using uranium mine ponds in northern Arizona; criminal proscription of Cotter Corporation confirms lethal results where migratory waterfowl are drawn to what appears to be water in an otherwise dry landscape. The DPEIS lacks detailed analyses of all of the above potential impacts to migratory birds, including their resulting "take" and mortality. Pending such analyses and supporting data, federal agencies cannot rely on the DPEIS, or similarly vacuous later-phase NEPA iterations, for concluding that "take" would not result from ULP activities.

These and other threats pose an imminent threat to listed and other species and the proper means to address these ongoing problems involve both the NEPA process and the criminal enforcement of potentially ongoing violations of provisions of ESA and MBTA. The criminal prosecution of Cotter in 2006 confirms the lethal results where migratory waterfowl are drawn to what appears to be water in a dry landscape. Exh. 6 Criminal Plea Agreement.

F. National Historic Preservation Act

The ongoing programmatic NEPA analysis of potentially impacted properties that included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places must be conducted in conjunction with Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act. 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA). Although NHPA Section 106 consultation must be conducted in

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L47-57

The PEIS does provide an analysis of potential impacts to migratory birds in Section 4.3.6.2 and in Section 4.3.6.4 (specific migratory bird species that are listed as threatened or endangered) from mine exploration, development and operation, and reclamation. However, without site-specific information on mine locations and activities, it is too speculative to provide detailed analyses of potential impacts to migratory birds, particularly "take" and mortality. Site-specific analyses would be provided in the Environmental Protection Plans (EPPs) developed for individual mines. Section 4.6 of the PEIS includes measures aimed at protecting birds in order to be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will have input on mitigation actions required under the ULP during their review of the EPPs prepared for proposed mines. Permit and lease requirements for the mines will include requirements to adhere to all applicable laws and regulations, including compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

L47-58

L47-58

Historically, NHPA consultations have been conducted on the lease tracts for ULP activities as the potential areas of disturbance were identified on a site-by-site basis. Since the BLM has the oversight of the surface activities of the ULP lease tracts, the consultations were addressed via BLM's Programmatic Agreement with the CO SHPO. In the past, when the lessees would identify a potential area of activity, DOE, the BLM, and the lessee would confer on the activity and the potential location. A survey would then be completed by the BLM archeologist, if available, or the lessee would hire an appropriately-trained and BLM-approved archaeological contractor to perform the survey. Once the survey was completed and if cultural resources were identified, the potential impacts were assessed by BLM. As allowed under the BLM PA with the CO SHPO, BLM would make the determinations. Historically, when any potential impacts were identified, the lessee has voluntarily moved the proposed areas of disturbance away from areas identified as having cultural resources; the same consultation process would be followed on the new proposed area. LM is pursuing a programmatic agreement under the NHPA with consulting parties to formalize this process and provide better public awareness of the ULP activities with respect to cultural resources.

Energy & Conservation Law, Commenter ID No. L47 (Cont.)

coordination with NEPA, the DPEIS delays analysis of known and foreseen impacts to an undetermined later phase, after programmatic decisions have been made and implemented.

The DPEIS confirms that “[f]orty-two individual cultural sites on the lease tracts were eligible for, or potentially eligible for, inclusion in the NRHP.” DPEIS at 3-227. An unspecified number of eligible or potentially eligible sites are located near the lease tracts, including poorly documented art panels located throughout the region, and particularly in the area between East Paradox Valley and the San Miguel River.

As stated in the scoping comments, many of the historic properties on and near the lease tracts are the subject of ongoing use and retain cultural, spiritual, and religious importance. However, surveys of these tracts and surrounding lands relied upon in the DPEIS are outdated and lack any comprehensive analysis of the context and setting of the sites.

As with other site-specific and cumulative impacts analyses, the DPEIS indicates that Section 106 consultation will not be conducted until reclamation DPEIS 4-53 or mining plans are submitted. *Id.* at 4-148. In particular, DPEIS rejects scoping comments based on the erroneous proposition that the ULMP program NEPA analysis and decisions can completely evade 106 consultations.

The consultation with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with regard to cultural resources would be conducted when project-specific information was submitted by the lessees to DOE for review and approval.

DPEIS at B-10.

This rationale was rejected by the district court. Order at 24. Yet, the DPEIS confirms that the ULMP is an “undertaking” requiring Section 106 consultation. Relegating Section 106 consultation and analysis to a later date when DOE proposes to approve mining and reclamation plans via categorical exclusions ignores the DOE’s duties under both NEPA and NHPA. Delaying consultation also ignores the real danger that a lessee or its employees would remove artifacts in order to avoid future Section 106 consultation. Disrespect and disregard for cultural sites pose serious threats to the cultural resources of the region, and both must be analyzed in a new DPEIS issued for public comment.

IV. Conclusion

The DPEIS is prepared largely without regard to the district court rulings, and appears to be an attempt to reinstate the 2007 status quo without subjecting a reasonable range of alternatives to the “hard look” mandate of NEPA and ESA’s consultation requirements. Instead of conforming to judicial findings and orders, the DPEIS tracks the many shortfalls in a NOI that was prepared in 2011 as a failed litigation tactic.

Although the DOE has failed to lawfully and faithfully implement the ULMP, the commenting organizations remain engaged in the difficult task of repairing and reviving the Uranium Lease Management Program for use as an effective management tool on public lands containing

L47-58
(Cont.)

L47-59 DOE considers the evaluation to be adequate in supporting all five alternatives in the range of reasonable alternatives discussed.

The evaluations conducted for the PEIS used site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). DOE considers the information adequate to support the alternatives evaluated and for making any decisions relative to these alternatives. Although site-specific information for future mines are not be available until the lessees submit specific mine plans, information available from past mining activities such as the understanding on cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, waste rock and ore characteristics, and transportation practices and routes is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future mining activities for the five alternatives.

As for the comment regarding that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

Energy & Conservation Law, Commenter ID No. L47 (Cont.)

uranium reserves. Proper implementation of the lease program will remain impossible so long as the DPEIS refuses to disclose site specific conditions and reasonable alternatives. If properly analyzed and implemented, this unique uranium reserve and leasing program provides DOE, the public, and various decisionmakers with a means of protecting uranium deposits in the Uravan Mineral Belt in light of the excess uranium in DOE managed stockpiles.

L47-59
(Cont.)

Sincerely,

s/Travis E. Stills
Travis E. Stills
Energy & Conservation Law

s/Jeff Parsons
Jeff Parsons
Western Mining Action Project

Attorney for Plaintiffs/Commenters

Hopi Tribe, Commenter ID No. L1



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN
Herman G. Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2013

Carol M. Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. Borgstrom,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated March 7, 2013, regarding an enclosed Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS, DOE/EIS-0472D for the management of 31 lease tracts in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) in western Colorado.

The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the prehistoric cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Department of Energy's solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

Therefore, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office requests consultation on any proposal in southwestern Colorado to adversely affect prehistoric cultural resources. Enclosed are our letters dated July 31 and August 1, 2006, in which we supported the No Action alternative in the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment DOE/EA-1535D. In our August 1, 2006, letter we reviewed the Class I Cultural Resources Inventory that identifies 23 prehistoric sites in the project area and states, "Prehistoric site densities are high because the lease tracts tend to be located in a narrow elevation range and ecological zone favored by prehistoric peoples for occupation."

In the enclosed letter dated August 8, 2011, we stated we understood this PEIS will analyze the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts, including the site-specific impacts, of alternatives for the management of the ULP, under which the DOE administers tracts of land for the exploration, development, and extraction of and vanadium ores on 25,000 acres in western Colorado.

The legacy of past uranium mining has left wounds on our land, our water, and our people. These wounds are not scars, for they have not healed. The legacy of uranium mining has devastated the people and the land, and continues to destroy the land and lives of Hopisimon, Native Americans, and Americans alike. The Hopi Tribes has repeatedly stated that past contamination from uranium mining should be cleaned up before any additional uranium mining is approved. We have stated that we believe the Federal, State and local governments should focus on and address the existing threat to human life, and that

*see ID
4/19/13*

P.O. BOX 123

KYKOTSMOVI, AZ 86039

(928) 734-3000

L1-1

L1-1 Comment and request noted. Continued consultation with the Hopi Nation will be done by DOE as mining plans are submitted that may affect Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties and National Register eligible prehistoric sites.

L1-2

L1-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

DOE notes the comment about replacing the 1872 Mining Law, however, this is outside the scope of the PEIS.

Hopi Tribe, Commenter ID No. L1 (Cont.)

Carol M. Borgstrom
March 26, 2013
Page 2

Congress should replace the 1872 Mining Law with a Sacred Sites Act and mining law fit for life in the 21st Century and into the future.

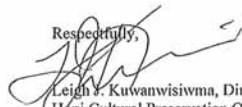
We have now reviewed the enclosed Draft PEIS DOE/EOS-0472D and we understand there are 112 cultural resources within the 12 tracts under Alternatives 3, and direct impacts could occur to 8 of these known cultural resources. Under Alternative 4, the preferred alternative, of the 128 known cultural resources on 31 lease tracts 21 could be directly impacted. Direct impacts could occur to 23 known cultural resources on 31 tracts under Alternative 5. Indirect effects could occur to all known cultural resource sites under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5. Adverse impacts on traditional cultural properties are also counted among the direct impacts to cultural resources under Alternatives 3, 4 and 5.

Therefore, as we indicated in our August 8, 2011 letter, we strongly support Alternatives 1 and 2 in which DOE would terminate the leases for the ULP, and lessees would be required to reclaim their operations on their respective leases. We strongly oppose Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

If Alternative 3, 4, or 5 are selected for implementation, we expect continuing consultation on cultural resource survey reports and treatment plans for the mitigation of adverse effects to National Register eligible prehistoric sites and Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties that may exist within the lease areas that cannot be avoided by ground disturbing activities.

Patuwaquatsi, means "ocean" and is used literally by some as "water is life." For over a thousand years, the springs and waters of the Hopi Mesas have provided life to *Hopisinom*. *Koyaanisqatsi*, told in Hopi history and prophesy, is life out of balance, or a state of life that calls for another way of living. This state of life characterizes the risks we face together in modern times. If Americans are to live together in America in the 21st Century, we must call together for another way of living. The laws of the past that are now being used against all American people must be consigned to the past, and replaced with laws that support life, not destruction and death.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leigh A. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Enclosures: July 31 and August 1, 2006, August 8, 2011 letters to DOE

cc: Ray Plienness, DOE Office of Legacy Management, 11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000, Westminster, CO 80021
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

L1-2
(Cont.)

L1-3

L1-3

Comment noted. Continued consultation with the Hopi Nation will be done by DOE as mining plans are submitted that may affect Hopi Traditional Cultural Properties and National Register eligible prehistoric sites.

Hopi Tribe, Commenter ID No. L1 (Cont.)



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN

August 8, 2011

Laura E. Kilpatrick, Realty Officer
Re: ULP PEIS
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated July 28, 2011, regarding participation in the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEIS) for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP). The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the prehistoric cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Department of Energy's solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

Therefore, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office requests consultation on any proposal in southwestern Colorado to adversely affect prehistoric cultural resources. Enclosed are our letters dated July 31 and August 1, 2006, in which we supported the No Action alternative in the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment DOE/EA-1535D. In our August 1, 2006, letter we reviewed the Class I Cultural Resources Inventory that identifies 23 prehistoric sites in the project area and states, "Prehistoric site densities are high because the lease tracts tend to be located in a narrow elevation range and ecological zone favored by prehistoric peoples for occupation."

We understand this PEIS will analyze the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts, including the site-specific impacts, of alternatives for the management of the ULP, under which the DOE administers tracts of land for the exploration, development, and extraction of and vanadium ores on 25,000 acres in western Colorado.

The Hopi Tribes has repeatedly stated that past contamination from uranium mining should be cleaned up before any additional uranium mining is approved. We oppose the continued use of the archaic 1872 Mining Law to justify uranium mining. We have stated that we

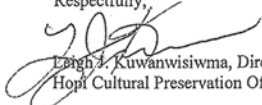
Hopi Tribe, Commenter ID No. L1 (Cont.)

Laura E. Kilpatrick
August 8, 2011
Page 2

believe the Federal, State and local governments should focus on and address the existing threat to human life, and that Congress should replace the 1872 Mining Law with a Sacred Sites Act and mining law fit for life in the 21st Century and into the future. Therefore, we will support the alternatives in which DOE would terminate the leases for the ULP, and lessees would be required to reclaim their operations on their respective leases.

We will be unable to send a representative to the scoping meetings or to be a cooperating agency in the development of this PEIS. However, please provide us with a copy of the draft PEIS for review and comment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

Enclosures: July 31 and August 1, 2006 letters to DOE

cc: Laura Kilpatrick, DOE, Office of Legacy Management, 11025 Dover St., Suite 1000, Westminster, CO 80021
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

Hopi Tribe, Commenter ID No. L1 (Cont.)



Ivan L. Sidney
CHAIRMAN
Todd Honyaoma, Sr.
VICE CHAIRMAN

August 1, 2006

Tracy Plessinger, Project Lead
Uranium Leasing PEA Comments
Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management
2597 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Dear Ms. Plessinger,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated July 19, 2006, with an enclosed Class I cultural resources inventory for the Department of Energy continuing its Uranium Leasing Program currently consisting of 38 lease tracts located in western Colorado. As you know from our July 31, 2006, letter regarding this proposal, the Hopi Tribe claims ancestral and cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in western Colorado, and therefore we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

As you also know from our July 31st letter, the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. In that letter we commented on the draft Environmental Assessment that states that the No Action alternative would benefit cultural resources, as cultural sites would not be disturbed. Therefore, we stated that we support the No Action alternative in the draft Environmental Assessment.

We have now reviewed the *Class I Cultural Resources Inventory of 38 Department of Energy Uranium Lease Withdrawal Areas, Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel Counties, Colorado*, by Alpine Archaeological Consultants. The inventory report states that one of the earliest inventories in western Colorado was conducted to achieve the research objective of determining whether Ancestral Pueblo sites extended north of the San Juan Mountains. We are interested in the current state of research on this objective. We understand that 30 sites, 23 of which are prehistoric have been identified in the project area.

The inventory report states "Prehistoric site densities are high because the lease tracts tend to be located in a narrow elevation range and ecological zone that was favored by prehistoric peoples for occupation." Therefore, we reiterate our support for the No Action alternative in the draft Environmental Assessment.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Leigh W. Kuwanyisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

P.O. BOX 123 — KYKOTSMOVI, AZ. — 86039 — (928) 734-3000

Hopi Tribe, Commenter ID No. L1 (Cont.)



Ivan L. Sidney
CHAIRMAN
Todd Honyaoma, Sr.
VICE CHAIRMAN

July 31, 2006

Tracy Plessinger, Project Lead
Uranium Leasing PEA Comments
Department of Energy, Office of Legacy Management
2597 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Dear Ms. Plessinger,

This letter is in response to your correspondences of February, 2006, and July 11, 2006, with an enclosed *Uranium Leasing Program Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment, DOE/EA-1535D*, regarding the Department of Energy continuing its Uranium Leasing Program currently consisting of 38 lease tracts located in western Colorado. The Hopi Tribe claims ancestral and cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in western Colorado, and therefore we appreciate your continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties. The draft Environmental Assessment states that under the Expanded Program alternative, the preferred alternative, approximately 9 to 12 cultural resource sites could be expected to occur within areas of new disturbance, that under the Existing Program alternative approximately 2 to 3 sites could occur within areas of disturbance, and that the No Action alternative would benefit cultural resources, as cultural sites would not be disturbed.

Therefore, we support the No Action alternative in this draft Environmental Assessment.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leigh J. Kuwanwiswima".

Leigh J. Kuwanwiswima, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

P.O. BOX 123 — KYKOTSMOVI, AZ — 86039 — (928) 734-3000

Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership, Commenter ID No. L39

Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership



CAP
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT
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SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY
Patricia Mulroy
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority
1001 South Valley View
Las Vegas, Nevada 89153
702-258-3100

May 30, 2013

VIA EMAIL AND FEDEX

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the U.S. Department of Energy Uranium Leasing Program

This letter is being sent in response to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for its Uranium Leasing Program located in western Colorado. As the major providers of drinking water in the lower Colorado River Basin, the Central Arizona Project, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Southern Nevada Water Authority have a vested interest in Colorado River water quality issues. Our agencies deliver water from the Colorado River to over 25 million people in the American Southwest. We collaborate through the Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership (Partnership) to address water quality issues facing the Colorado River and our respective agencies. Protecting the Colorado River's water quality is of paramount importance and, as such, any potential for its degradation through increased uranium mining in areas proximate to the Colorado River or its tributaries is an issue of concern to the Partnership.

The draft PEIS analyzes foreseeable environmental impacts related to a range of alternatives for managing DOE's Uranium Leasing Program. The current program includes 31 tracts of land collectively covering approximately 25,000 acres in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties in western Colorado for exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation of uranium sites. We understand that all existing or proposed mining activity within the lease tracts is on hold while DOE evaluates five alternatives ranging from continuing to manage lease tracts to terminating all leases and the Uranium Leasing Program.

The draft PEIS discusses potential impacts on water quality under the five alternatives and determines that impacts would be minor for the exploration and reclamation phases. The Partnership believes DOE must exercise caution on its Uranium Leasing Program as the exploration and mining of radioactive material near a drinking water source has resulted in

L39-1

L39-1

Potential impacts to surface and groundwater quality are evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.4, 4.2.4, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, and 4.5.4). See also discussion in Section I.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts.

The proposed action would be implemented in accordance with Federal, state, and local requirements including those for the protection of water quality.

Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership, Commenter ID No. L39 (Cont.)

Mr. Ray Plieness
May 30, 2013
Page 2

past environmental and public health impacts. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency established drinking water standards for uranium and other radiological compounds due to their toxicity and carcinogenicity. Historically, uranium mining has led to considerable environmental damage, with subsequent cleanup efforts taking decades to complete. For example, DOE continues its efforts to remove a 16-million-ton uranium mill tailings pile that was left along the bank of the Colorado River near Moab, Utah as a result of mining and milling operations between the 1950s and 1980s. Until removed, this tailings pile continues to threaten millions of downstream consumers and adversely impacts the public's confidence in the safety of the Colorado River water supply. The threat of uranium mining on environmental and water resources was clearly acknowledged by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar when he issued a 20-year moratorium in 2012 to prevent new mining claims within areas near Grand Canyon National Park and the Colorado River.

As a result of mining operations, surface water and groundwater quality could potentially be contaminated by the accidental release of chemicals, mixing of water with varying geochemical characteristics, or cross contamination among aquifers. The draft PEIS states that no public water system is present within five miles of the uranium lease tracts; however, some of the tracts are located along the Dolores and San Miguel rivers, which are both tributaries to the Colorado River. Consequently, mine development and operations could threaten the Colorado River, which provides a critical supply of drinking water, agricultural irrigation water, water for wildlife habitat, and water for recreation throughout the western United States. The final PEIS should require a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to collectively track the impacts from all lease activities, inform stakeholders of any relevant developments, and ensure long-term protection of the Colorado River and its tributaries from threats of uranium and other regulated constituents.

Mining activity would also increase ground disturbance and could lead to greater erosion and sediment loading along tributaries of the Colorado River, potentially affecting salinity levels. High salinity water can impact agricultural crop yields, groundwater recharge and water recycling efforts, and scaling potential of household appliance—all of which can have significant economic impacts to downstream users. Our agencies participate in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and are committed to efforts to control salinity inputs throughout the Colorado River watershed. Perhaps the most significant of these efforts is a deep well injection project within the Paradox Valley and in the vicinity of the Uranium Leasing Program. The draft PEIS references the Paradox Valley Unit project, but does not cite current or accurate information. We request that the final PEIS revise its description and work with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to correct inaccuracies regarding the Paradox Valley Unit project. Moreover, as site-specific mining plans are developed for each lease tract, the cumulative potential impacts of large-scale exploration and mining activities on salinity loading to the Colorado River must be evaluated, mitigated, and communicated to stakeholders.

Although DOE proposes implementing compliance measures, mitigation measures, and best management practices to prevent water quality impacts, the draft PEIS indicates that detailed measures would be identified in future uranium exploration and development plans. It is imperative that the final PEIS identifies and evaluates the effectiveness of these proposed measures to lessen the threat to water quality and carefully consider whether greater restrictions are necessary. For example, the final PEIS should evaluate its basis for a 1/4-mile setback from perennial streams for proposed mining activities. The Partnership believes a greater distance may be necessary to ensure protection of the Colorado River and its tributaries. Climate change projections indicate the potential for extreme storm events resulting in increased runoff and higher river flows, further emphasizing the need for adequate setbacks. Also,

L39-1
(Cont.)

L39-2

L39-3

L39-2

L39-3

Potential impacts to surface and groundwater quality are evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.4, 4.2.4, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, and 4.5.4). See also discussion in Section 1.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts.

The text in Section 4.7.2.9 has been revised to provide an updated description of the Paradox Valley Unit Project.

The PEIS does include a 1/4 mile buffer from the Dolores River for future mining. In addition to this 1/4 mile buffer above, the measures presented in M-4 in Table 4.6-1 provide adequate protection.

Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership, Commenter ID No. L39 (Cont.)

Mr. Ray Plieness
May 30, 2013
Page 3

additional evaluation is needed to determine if select lease tracts with the greatest potential to affect water quality should be removed from further development consideration. The Partnership believes that mining activities within Lease Tract 13, which encompasses a 3-mile reach of the Dolores River, may potentially have significant water quality impacts and should be withdrawn from the Uranium Leasing Program. Lastly, considering the potential for cumulative impacts, subsequent environmental reviews must include an evaluation of worst-case scenarios should mitigation measures fail.

L39-3
(Cont.)

The Partnership recognizes the considerable efforts taken by DOE to evaluate the environmental effects of its Uranium Leasing Program; a careful evaluation of these effects is critical as the program lies within areas that may have the potential to impact Colorado River drinking water supplies. The Partnership firmly believes that all possible efforts should be made to safeguard the public's drinking water sources, and therefore, DOE and other federal agencies with oversight over mining operations in the Colorado River Basin must use their authority to prevent any potential for deterioration of this critical water supply for millions of people.

L39-4

We thank you for your efforts to fully investigate the water quality impacts of this project and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input to your planning process. We look forward to receiving the final PEIS and future environmental documentation for lease tracts within the Uranium Leasing Program which may pose a threat to water quality in the Colorado River and its tributaries.

L39-4

The affected environment and potential impacts discussed in Sections 3 and 4, respectively, provide information regarding water quality in the area. The evaluation in the PEIS addressed existing impacts on water bodies in three watersheds (USGS HUC 8 watershed) that encompass all ULP lease tracts. These three watersheds ultimately drain into the Dolores River, which is a tributary of the Colorado River. On the basis of recent results from the state water quality monitoring program (CDPHE's report and 303 [d] list), no impaired water body was found in the three watersheds that are associated with ULP lease tracts (Chapter 3). A variety of causes of potential future impacts have been analyzed in Chapter 4. Although these potential impacts are minor to moderate, the mitigation measures presented in the PEIS cover a range of controls that when implemented should minimize any potential impacts.

Sincerely,

David Modeer
General Manager
Central Arizona Project

Jeffrey Lightinger
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California

Patricia Mulroy
General Manager
Southern Nevada Water
Authority

cc: Secretary Ernest Moniz, U.S. Department of Energy
Secretary Sally Jewell, U.S. Department of the Interior



MESA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Administration - Building - Engineering – Road and Bridge
Traffic - **Planning** - Solid Waste Management

750 Main Street • P.O. Box 20,000 • Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5022
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Friday, May 10, 2013

Ray Plieness
ULP PEIS Document Manager
US Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management
2597 Legacy Way
Grand Junction, CO 81503
ulpeis@anl.gov

Re: Uranium Leasing Program PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Uranium Leasing Program PEIS. Mesa County has been a Cooperating Agency through the scoping and review of earlier drafts and we do not have any concerns with this document. Our comments made during earlier reviews have been adequately addressed in this draft we have no further comment at this time.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions at (970)244-1759 or email at randy.price@mesacounty.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Price".

Randy Price
Mesa County Senior Planner

L32-1

L32-1

Comment noted. DOE appreciates the effort by Mesa County as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process.

Montrose County, Commenter ID No. T29

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

1 And then the other thing is remediation.
2 And as far as remediation goes, we need to worry about
3 more than just filling in the hole and bringing in the
4 topsoil, we need to adequately have -- utilize
5 standards of reclamation, including the improper soil
6 profiles, and of course we need to independently
7 monitor to make sure that it is monitored to come back
8 to its native state.

9 And as far as the monitoring goes, we need
10 to have benchmarks of acceptability. In other words,
11 they're not released from the -- from their -- they're
12 not released from the lease requirements until they
13 meet these benchmarks. They're independently verified
14 as to having the native vegetation come back into its
15 natural state.

16 So those are two things that I think we need
17 to -- that I'd like to identify.

18 MR. CAMERON: All right. Thank you, Wayne.
19 Is there anybody else who wants to speak to the
20 Department and to the community? Anybody want to make
21 any comments?

22 Yes, sir. Want to come up? And just please
23 introduce yourself.

24 DAVID WHITE: Okay. I'm David White, I'm a
25 Montrose County Commissioner. And we've already

← T29-1

T29-1

DOE appreciates the effort by Montrose County as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Montrose County, Commenter ID No. T29 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

40

1 submitted our comments in writing. We are in support
2 of the DOE's position, alternative number 4; I just
3 want to reaffirm that here in person. Didn't know
4 what the comment period would look like.

T29-1
(Cont.)

5 I also would like to point out that in this
6 document that's available to everyone here tonight,
7 that on page S 27, the comments that have been made
8 this evening relative to the price of uranium as well
9 as clean-up and whatnot, those are addressed. And for
10 the record, the economic issues are not within the
11 scope and purpose and need for DOE's action per this
12 document. Just wanted to get that on the record.

T29-2

T29-2 Comment noted.

13 But the County is definitely in support of
14 alternative number 4. Thank you.



15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Commissioner White.
16 Anybody else want to speak?

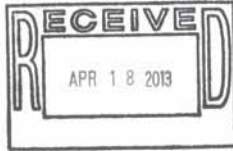
17 Yes, come on up.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I didn't sign in to the
19 sheet.

20 MR. CAMERON: That's okay, just introduce
21 yourself.

22 GEORGE VANDERSLOOT: My name is George
23 Vandersloot. Some of you know me; a lot of you don't.
24 I'm known as an outdoor person. I'm concerned about
25 our environment. I do a lot of mountain climbing,

Montrose County, Board of County Commissioners, Commenter ID No. L3



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Mr. Plieness:

As the elected officials of Montrose County, Colorado, we are submitting comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) issued for the Uranium Leasing Program (ULP).

Montrose County recognizes the substantial interdisciplinary effort that has been made in bringing the PEIS process to this point. Our own staff has contributed significant time to this action through participation in the cooperating agency process. At this time, we are not offering any line and page specific comments. Instead, we feel it is more appropriate to provide a general comment on the PEIS.

It is our position that DOE identified a reasonable range of alternatives through the scoping process. The detailed PEIS produced through this process is evidence of the thorough analysis that has been performed on each of the selected alternatives. The preferred alternative (Alternative 4) strikes an appropriate balance between environmental concerns and the continuation of the ULP. The ULP is a critical mechanism for allowing access to domestic uranium and vanadium resources. The ability to access these federally administered mineral resources is still important today. We concur with the findings of the PEIS that the impacts from continuation of the program would range from negligible to minimal.

Based on the aforementioned considerations, we hereby state our unanimous support for the preferred alternative (Alternative 4) identified in the Draft PEIS.

Sincerely,

Ron Henderson *David White* *Gary Ellis*
Ron Henderson David White Gary Ellis
Chairman Vice-Chairman Commissioner

P.O. Box 1289 . Montrose, CO 81401 . Telephone: 970-249-7755 Fax: 970-249-7761

L3-1

L3-1

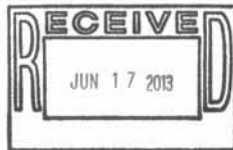
Comment noted. DOE appreciates the effort by Montrose County as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ELAINE FISCHER ART GOODTIMES JOAN MAY

June 10, 2013

Ray Plienness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



Dear Mr. Plienness,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Energy Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. San Miguel County is a cooperating agency in the DOE's PEIS review and has contributed significant resources toward participating in this process and reviewing the study.

This issue is of great concern to San Miguel County for the following reasons:

- San Miguel County is particularly rich in uranium,
- 47 of the existing mines in the PEIS area exist within our county borders,
- San Miguel County would experience significant environmental and socioeconomic impacts if the leasing program were implemented,
- Citizens of our county have spoken passionately and knowledgeably against expanding the uranium leasing program in this region.

In light of these criteria we ask that you carefully consider the following comments.

The San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners (SMC) believes that there is no justification for the Department of Energy to consider leasing or re-leasing any uranium lease tracts in San Miguel County at this time.

There is no demand in our country for new uranium. The United States has sufficient stockpiles of raw and spent uranium, estimated between 500 and 600 million tons, that has full potential to be utilized if and when nuclear power becomes more viable in the United States.

The citizens of San Miguel County who spoke at the various hearings on the Uranium Leasing Program stated accurately that it is the desire of citizens of our country to retain our uranium resources rather than sell them to other countries. The uranium resources that would be developed in the Uravan Mineral District are unlikely to be used to supply domestic nuclear power needs, but would be intended for international export.

L41-1 DOE appreciates the effort by San Miguel County as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

L41-2 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

L41-1

L41-2

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners, Commenter ID No. L41 (Cont.)

San Miguel County, Colorado
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Currently, the only operating mill in the United States is the White Mesa Mill in the Uravan district; it is owned by Energy Fuels Inc., and has the capacity to process larger supplies of ore if mining increases within the district. Energy Fuels Inc. has stated on numerous occasions that it is seeking new contracts to supply uranium yellowcake to markets in Asia and already holds long-term production contracts with Korean Electric Power Corporation, which is one of Energy Fuels largest shareholders.

The DOE Uranium Leasing Program is authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as amended (68 Stat. 919, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., especially 42 U.S.C. 2098) and is further codified at 10 CFR 760 titled *Domestic Uranium Program* and held as *Reserves* for the future needs of the United States and its citizens. We feel it is a wise decision to retain our uranium reserves safely in the ground in order to meet our future domestic demands.

We believe that the Purpose and Need Statement in the Draft PEIS inappropriately focuses on the need to develop these reserves rather than an analysis of whether it is the prudent time to develop these reserves. Given the lack of demand for uranium ore and given the great need to restore previously leased mine sites, we strongly disagree with the argument that reserves should be considered for development at this time. Rather, the lease tracts should be analyzed and managed in order to guarantee the stability and preservation of these valuable reserves as well as maintain the ecological health of the surface.

San Miguel County hereby requests that the DOE analyze additional alternatives to those presented in the PEIS. Specifically, the PEIS should contain an alternative with a hierarchical ranking of the lease tracts based on their environmental sensitivity. If it is determined to be necessary to develop these reserves to meet our domestic energy needs, it should be done in a way that protects the environment to the greatest possible degree. This hierarchy should take into account where there is existing disturbance as well as which sites are ecologically and visually most sensitive. The necessary development should occur in that sequence, and only at such time as uranium is needed for domestic purposes.

An additional alternative should look at terminating the uranium leases and reclaiming the tracts, and then developing those tracts for renewable energy, in consideration of our region's strong potential for the development of renewables, especially solar power. This alternative would allow the DOE to meet its mission to provide for domestic energy needs without the need to develop the uranium reserves for which there is no safe waste disposal, and which the citizens of San Miguel County oppose. This would be SMC's preferred alternative.

We also believe that the PEIS must discuss the mechanism by which DOE will ensure that all of these reserves, if developed, are developed for domestic use and not developed for export to other countries.

In addition, we believe that the PEIS must address the impacts and costs of the full cradle-to-grave life cycle of the produced uranium. There are currently about 50,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel rods stored in cooling pools around the 104 nuclear facilities in the United States. Another 15,000 tons of cooled radioactive waste is stored in casks around these

L41-2
(Cont.)

L41-3

L41-4

L41-3 Contrary to these Comments, the purpose and need for the proposed action does not require expansion of the scope of the PEIS. As explained in PEIS Section 1.4, "Purpose and Need for Agency Action," the underlying purpose and need for agency action was established by the U.S. Congress in two provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA): 42 U.S.C. § 2096, which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium; and 42 U.S.C. § 2097, which authorized DOE "to issue leases or permits for prospecting for, exploration for, mining of, or removal of deposits of source material [including uranium ore] in lands belonging to the United States."

The Purpose and Need for agency action, as described in the ULP PEIS Section 1.4, is to support the implementation of those two AEA provisions. Section 1.4 recognizes that order to support these provisions, "DOE needs to determine the future course of the ULP, including whether to continue leasing some or all of DOE's withdrawn lands and other claims . . . for the exploration and production of uranium ores for the remainder of the ten-year period that was covered by the July 2007 PEA." PEIS Section 1.5, "Scope of the ULP PEIS," therefore describes the scope of its analysis as the evaluation of the five alternatives for managing the ULP, and the evaluation of "the three mining phases associated with the underground and surface open-pit mining methods," which "are the exploration phase, mine development and operations phase, and reclamation phase." Therefore, the AEA provisions are consistent with the present scope of the ULP PEIS, and do not require that the scope be expanded beyond the ULP to analyze the entire nuclear fuel cycle. See also response to L41-2 regarding concerns for export of uranium.

The PEIS considers mitigation measures (see Table 4.6-1) that would assure environmental protection.

DOE analyzed "reclaim" and "reserve" (Alternative 1) as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

BLM's multiple use of the surface at the ULP lease tracts does not include development of renewable energy such as solar energy. The ULP lease tracts are located within BLM's excluded areas for solar energy zones or SEZs identified in BLM's Solar PEIS (<http://solareis.anl.gov/documents/fpeis/>).

L41-4 See response to comment L41-3. As stated in that response, the PEIS scope does not include the entire nuclear fuel cycle.

As for waste management and disposal for the proposed action (as analyzed for the five alternatives in Section 4.1.13, 4.2.13, 4.3.13, 4.4.13, and 4.5.13), in addition to waste rock (which is mostly retained at the mine site location and graded to a preferred slope, provided with a protective top-cover and seeded during reclamation), other waste generated would be of smaller quantities that would either be taken to a local landfill or to the mill or a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility, consistent with past mining practices. Local landfills have the capacity to accept the waste and there are licensed low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities that could accept the small quantities of low-level radioactive waste generated.

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners, Commenter ID No. L41 (Cont.)

San Miguel County, Colorado
Page 3 of 6

facilities that were to be disposed of in the now defunct Yucca Mountain site. There are currently no suitable repositories for this waste.

Because our county is uranium rich, SMC feels a great responsibility to ensure that nuclear waste be disposed of or stored in a way that is not harmful to current and future inhabitants of our planet. Currently, there is no safe plan for storage or disposal, and until such time as such a plan is formulated we cannot support removing more uranium from its safe, i.e. unmined, stores below the ground.

The production of radioactive waste is clearly a reasonably foreseeable consequence of the development of these reserves and cannot be considered to be outside the scope of this PEIS analysis. The lack of a permanent depository for radioactive waste has been of considerable concern and action at the national level, including through the findings President's Blue Ribbon Commission and its goals to identify a future depository site. Similarly, a federal court decision on the "waste confidence rule" directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to delay approvals of new projects until the waste storage problem is addressed. Developing our uranium reserves may also contribute to this problem before a solution has been identified.

The PEIS acknowledges this is the case in section 2-3. We believe that it is irresponsible and irrational to authorize the development and production of additional radioactive waste without a strategy for disposal of existing and future waste materials. To burden future generations with the perpetual management and containment of these radioactive wastes is unacceptable.

While the Draft PEIS makes some plausible projections of future use of the lease tracts regarding size, number and location of future mining activity, the projections are pure speculation. The impacts of future development based on such assumptions are consequently also purely speculative and of little value in predicting the true impacts to air quality, water quality, visual impacts, social and economic impacts, impacts to wildlife, transportation impacts and cumulative impacts.

We were pleased to note that the PEIS concedes the need for additional NEPA process at the time any site-specific development and operations are proposed in the future. As categorical exclusions are referenced as one of the NEPA options, SMC believes the PEIS needs to make more specific commitments regarding what level of exploration, development and operations will trigger NEPA review and to what specific level.

The Draft PEIS acknowledges the need to include site-specific analyses, however it is our view that these analyses can only be done at the project-specific level and have not been accomplished adequately in the Draft PEIS.

Site-specific information should be provided in the PEIS, such as clearly documenting the current site and environmental conditions at each of the lease tracts, the state of previous reclamation activities and future needs for reclamation, existing mining plans and future mining activities, transportation and road use, the availability of water supplies, and other

L41-4
(Cont.)

L41-5 The projections or assumptions for future uranium mining activities at the ULP lease tracts presented in the PEIS are based on site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information) in addition to historical mine development and operations on the lease tracts. The assumptions are made as realistically as possible but also provide a conservative basis for analyzing upper bound potential impacts from which decisions can be made. Future mining conditions or scenarios can be compared with the assumptions made in this PEIS to gauge potential impacts to human health and the various environmental resources. Whether or not the scenario described in the PEIS is exactly what happens in the future relative to mining at the ULP lease tracts, the science behind that evaluation for that future scenario remains the same as what was done for the PEIS. That is, the actual number of mines, sizes, and specific location might vary, but the specific level of potential impacts for the particular future scenario can be extrapolated from the results discussed in the PEIS.

L41-5

L41-6 The evaluations conducted for the PEIS used site-specific information available (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). DOE considers the information adequate to support the alternatives evaluated and for making any decisions relative to these alternatives. Although site-specific information for future mines are not be available until the lessees submit specific mine plans, information available from past mining activities such as the understanding on cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, waste rock and ore characteristics, and transportation practices and routes is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future mining activities for the five alternatives. The site-specific information consulted for the PEIS is summarized in Section 1.3 of this PEIS. Follow-on NEPA review would support future decisions. It would be used for determine whether additional specific mitigations measures would be implemented to assure protection of human health and environment.

L41-6

In Section 1.7 of the PEIS, DOE describes the NEPA review process that follows or could be tiered off this PEIS and it includes the preparation of additional site-specific reviews such as EAs, as needed. Based on comments received, Section 1.7 has been revised to state that for all future mining plans submitted for approval, DOE will require, at a minimum, an EA with appropriate public involvement to be prepared to further evaluate potential site specific impacts.

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners, Commenter ID No. L41 (Cont.)

San Miguel County, Colorado
Page 4 of 6

relevant details in order to form a complete understanding of the state of each tract. These site-specific impacts should be analyzed for each alternative and be available in order to have a complete analysis of the cumulative impacts.

L41-6
(Cont.)

DOE's analysis lacks an economic study providing justification for why these tracts are being leased now in the context of availability of lower cost alternative energy sources and low demand in the domestic market for uranium. Such economic information is imperative to a complete analysis, but is lacking. The analysis must incorporate the true cost and risks to the taxpayer in generating power with nuclear energy and the life cycle disposal and maintenance of the waste generated throughout the process.

L41-7

L41-7 The economic study suggested is outside the scope of the PEIS and does not meet the purpose and need described in Section 1.4 of the PEIS.

Additionally, the PEIS does not adequately explain how Alternative 4 was selected as the preferred alternative.

L41-8

L41-8 DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

As we've already stated, we would prefer to see additional alternatives. But given the limited choices of alternatives, Alternative 1 would be preferable to the other listed alternatives. Existing lease parcels must be fully remediated before new parcels or the re-leasing of parcels is considered.

L41-9

L41-9 Comment noted. Based on scoping and all the input from our cooperating agencies the alternatives presented provide the range of reasonable alternatives.

Regarding specific tracts in the PEIS, Lease Tract 14 is currently unleased. We believe that due to its proximity to the Dolores River it should remain unleased under any alternative.

L41-10

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Additionally, we are very concerned with the impacts of Tracts 13 and 13A on the Dolores River. We believe Tract 13 needs immediate attention to mitigate ongoing impacts to the Dolores River. Both of these tracts should have their leases terminated and held in reserve because of their proximity to the river and because of the clear evidence that their development negatively impacts the river visually and ecologically. The lack of site-specific data for all of the Slick Rock tracts is of concern to SMC because the area is used for agriculture and recreation and it is important to maintain the ecological health of the river and surrounding areas. Groundwater monitoring results for the nearby Slick Rock UMTRCA tailings depository show numerous groundwater contamination problems that are affecting the river. A detailed analysis of these issues at Slick Rock is crucial to making the best decisions for the management of the leasing tracts.

L41-11

L41-10 While it is currently not leased, the PEIS evaluation included Lease Tract 14 for completeness and DOE may consider leasing it in the future if warranted. Currently, there is a quarter mile buffer from the Dolores River in which no new mining can take place.

SMC relies on NEPA documents prepared by the DOE and other federal agencies to provide detailed information and data related to actual site conditions in the county. The PEIS does not provide the actual monitoring data or detailed assessment of site conditions that we need in order to facilitate the improved decision-making that NEPA intends. At the Slick Rock tracts in particular, measurable impacts and contamination exist that should form the basis of the PEIS. These should include an analysis of the unique impacts associated with the off-site migration of radionuclides, heavy metals and sedimentation into surface and ground waters. A complete Superfund-level analysis should be conducted before making programmatic level decisions.

L41-12

L41-11 State permits and inspection reports to date reflect the activities of the lessee in addressing existing concerns with Lease Tract 13. Site-specific conditions for the Slick Rock tracts are described in the EPP prepared by Cotter Corporation for Lease Tract 13A, and have been incorporated into the analyses done for the PEIS. While alluvial groundwater data from the Slick Rock UMTRCA site indicate groundwater contamination, surface water data do not indicate contamination to the Dolores River due to the site. That is, surface water sampling results for the 2012 monitoring period demonstrated essentially no impact to the Dolores River from historical milling activities. CDPHE water quality benchmarks for nitrates, selenium, and uranium were not exceeded; one sample for manganese slightly exceeded the benchmark (.055 mg/L versus CDPHE benchmark of 0.05 mg/L). This particular sample was highly turbid; the data point is also observed to be anomalous relative to historical data. This information can be found in the "Verification Monitoring Report for the Slick Rock, Colorado, Processing Sites" dated April 2013.

A buffer of one-quarter mile as recommended in the PEIS, based on ongoing impacts, is demonstratively inadequate to protect water quality in the Dolores River. All development

L41-13

L41-12 See response to L41-11.

L41-13 DOE agrees with the need to protect all water sources consistent with mitigation measures identified in Table 4.6.1 item M-4.

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners, Commenter ID No. L41 (Cont.)

San Miguel County, Colorado
Page 5 of 6

activities on these sites must be required to implement storm-water detention such that water impacted by the activities is not leaving the site of the operations and entering the watershed. DOE must require that these facilities be maintained through all periods of cessation until the sites are fully reclaimed and can be shown to be stabilized from erosion.

L41-13
(Cont.)

Another reason we see alternative 1 as our preferred of the available alternatives, is that the PEIS claims (pg. S-26) that "all legacy mine sites located on the DOE lease tracts have already been reclaimed." This conflicts with Table S.1-2 that lists the status of eight of the lease tracts as "reclamation of previously disturbed area is needed." In addition, a site visit by SMC to the lease tracts in the Slick Rock area revealed that not only are long inactive, unreclaimed areas contributing to pollution of the Dolores River, but reclaimed areas have also not been successfully stabilized. The condition of these historic mining sites highlights the long-term environmental impacts of a boom/bust uranium industry where unreclaimed areas sit inactive for decades. It also highlights the inability of reclamation to restore the pre-mining resource values.

L41-14

L41-14 Legacy mines described in the quoted text are from historical operations and are different from the mines that are described for the present operations on the lease tracts. The schedule or timing for reclamation of the mines on the eight lease tracts mentioned in the comment are to be completed as stipulated by the leases. See also response to L41-9 regarding reclamation completed.

San Miguel County, with its riches in uranium reserves, also has an abundance of abandoned and neglected uranium mining sites, likely numbering in the several hundreds. There is still a need to clean up Cold War-era mines and mills and we should be aware of the previous costs of this legacy to taxpayers. The Slick Rock UMTRCA cleanup, for example, cost over \$50 million to complete. Yet, in a separate matter, SMC had to take on the burden of negotiating directly with Energy Fuels Resources to increase the state-required bond from \$12 million to \$15 million during the licensing of a new mill in Paradox Valley. The lack of sufficient bonding to protect the citizens of San Miguel County in the event that problems develop at mines on the lease tracts or at connected facilities in the region remains a concern to us.

L41-15

L41-15 See response to L41-14 with regards to reclamation of legacy mines.

Lease tract operations are currently covered by reclamation bonds, calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

The PEIS does not adequately address the impacts of climate change on the proposed leasing program, specifically how hotter and drier conditions may exacerbate currently evident difficulties in successful reclamation. DOE must address the current and anticipated threats expected from impacts climate change will have on the leasing program.

L41-16

L41-16 While current science does not enable reliable analysis of specific climate impacts on a specific region, potential hotter and drier conditions attributable to future climate change would not be expected to affect ULP activities, including successful reclamation, which would occur in the next few decades. The analysis of potential impacts on resource areas in this PEIS is conservative and accounts for potential adverse effects of climate change on the resource areas.

The mitigation measures described in the PEIS are very generalized and non-specific. SMC believes that these measures must be much more detailed to be effective. Some of the described mitigation measures are only recommendations and have no practical enforceable value. Mitigation must have specific criteria, standards and outcomes to be effective. This again illustrates the need for more detailed site-specific NEPA to be applied to all mining activities. This is further supported by the fact that if mitigation measures are in place on the permitted mines, they have clearly not been adequate or effective.

L41-17

L41-17 The measures presented in Table 4.6-1 are categorized into compliance measures, mitigation measures, and BMPs. Section 4.6 and the footnotes A, B, and C on Table 4.6-1 explain that compliance and mitigation measures will be implemented. Further, the discussion on mitigation measures has been revised to provide additional discussion linking measures identified in Table 4.6-1 with specific resource area discussion (i.e., to make the connection as to what potential impacts from which resource area would be mitigated).

DOE stated in the public hearing in Telluride on April 24th that mitigation could be included in the leases. It is unclear to us how this would be accomplished as 29 of the 31 tracts already have existing leases.

L41-18

See also response to L41-6 for site-specific NEPA concerns.

L41-18 The PEIS does indicate that leases would be modified, as needed, in order to specify the compliance and mitigation measures identified in the PEIS (see Section 4.6 and footnote B of Table 4.6-1). The existing leases require DOE approval prior to resuming operations per article Appendix C.1.a which will require any new mitigation measures to be included in those plans.

San Miguel County Board of Commissioners, Commenter ID No. L41 (Cont.)

San Miguel County, Colorado
Page 6 of 6

The PEIS needs to be very clear that requirements will be in place that all operations be conducted in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts. This should be clearly stated in the Purpose and Need Statement.

L41-19

L41-19 The statement requested (as supported by our analysis) is made in Section 2.6 and S.4 in the discussion of DOE's preferred alternative. This statement does not fit into the Purpose and Need section and is therefore not included there as suggested.

SMC is concerned about the potential impacts to San Miguel County residents of noise from activities on the lease tracts. Section 3.2.3 Noise Regulations states, "ULP activities would have to follow applicable federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations on noise." However, Section 4.4.2.2 states, "when construction would occur near a lease tract boundary, noise levels near four residences around Lease Tracts 13, 13A, 16 and 16a could exceed the Colorado limit." These statements appear to be in conflict. We believe it is the responsibility of DOE through lease restrictions or other mechanisms to ensure that noise levels from activities on the UPL lease tracts conform with State law regarding noise levels at all residential receptors at all times.

L41-20

L41-20 The statement in Section 3.2.3 is correct that all ULP activities would have to follow applicable Federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations on noise. And the statement in Section 4.4.2.2 is also correct in that it presents the results of the analysis and states that noise levels from the activities evaluated could exceed the Colorado limit at the four residences around lease tracts 13, 13A, 16 and 16a. These statements are not in conflict but rather are made to provide basis for assuring that appropriate planning for mining activities includes designs and mitigation measures to prevent the occurrence or minimize the potential impact.

SMC is concerned with the potential for radon gas exposure to the public. This is particularly true for a potential residential receptor adjacent to Tract 13A. It needs to be clearly stated in the mitigation requirements that radon gas at a residential receptor may not be elevated above background levels by activities on the lease tracts. Radon levels must be monitored directly at the property boundary of these receptors and not estimated through modeling.

L41-21

L41-21 DOE would comply with Federal, state, and local requirements with regard to radon. The compliance measures and mitigation measures listed in Table 4.6-1 are identified to support compliance including to NESHAPS or 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart B that radon doses to nearby residents do not exceed the dose limit of 10 mrem/yr. EPA determines the potential exposure levels from uranium mining activities through the use of the COMPLY-R model, and the compliance and mitigation measures listed in Table 4.6-1 (M-11: Protect human health from radiological exposures) are to assure the availability of site-specific input information to the COMPLY-R model.

The public hearings held by the DOE showed significant opposition throughout the communities that would be affected by the proposed leasing program. Our constituents and many of those across the lease tract area do not support the rationale that our uranium reserves should be developed. We ask that DOE carefully consider the arguments of citizens who attended the hearings.

L41-22

L41-22 The public hearings did include public that opposed and also included public that supported DOE's proposed action.

Given the limited choices of alternatives, it is the considered opinion of SMC that alternative one be adopted by DOE. But in order to adequately address the uranium leasing needs of our region and our country, additional alternatives should be considered that more completely address the full impacts of this program, which the listed alternatives do not address.

L41-23

L41-23 DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments in this very important decision.

Sincerely,

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Joan May, Chair

L41-23 Comment noted. DOE appreciates the effort by San Miguel County as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process. DOE evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives as required by NEPA.

Town of Telluride, Commenter ID No. L53



**Stuart Fraser
Mayor**

June 25, 2013

Ray Plienness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Dear Mr. Plienness,

This letter details a number of the Town of Telluride’s concerns regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP). The history of environmental and human health consequences due to uranium mining and milling operations across the Colorado Plateau are well known. The list of contaminated sites on the Western Slope of Colorado—from Maybell, Naturita and Uravan, Rifle, Slick Rock to Durango—has left a legacy of severe contamination and costly cleanup, which has principally been funded by the federal government, with little or no contribution from the private parties responsible for such contamination. As a result of such poor treatment and history, the Town of Telluride is concerned about any renewed uranium mining activities in the area. With that in mind, Telluride finds that Alternative 1 is our preferred alternative and that there are several concerns regarding the choice of Alternative 4 as the DOE preferred alternative. Though the DOE is authorized and directed by the Atomic Energy Act to issue mining leases and permits to develop a domestic supply of uranium, domestic demand must be taken into consideration, and whether or not there is a need for uranium at present. Current market conditions strongly suggest that the domestic and even international market for processed uranium is saturated and does not warrant the development of extensive new domestic sources at this time. Due to the incredible toxicity and harmful effects of uranium mining from cradle to grave (and even after- throughout storage of the hazardous waste), Telluride is concerned the costs outweigh the benefits of re-activating mining in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties.

As an initial matter, the Town of Telluride and our local residents are concerned about the possible significant and long term regional environmental and human health impacts of re-leasing the uranium mines in the Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel Counties.

The Town of Telluride is concerned about the negative impact renewed mining would have on the region’s air quality. The Town and immediate regions are blessed with relatively clean air along with plentiful and reliable sources of uncontaminated drinking water. Air modeling research from Dr. Mark Williams—University of Colorado INSTAAR—has clearly illuminated that airborne materials (also known as aerosols and solutes) from the west end of Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel counties, along with southeastern Utah, are transported easterly

L53-1

L53-2

L53-3

L53-4

L53-1 Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE’s preferred alternative in this PEIS.

L53-2 With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

L53-3 The PEIS evaluated potential impacts for human health and the various resource areas. These evaluations provide adequate information regarding potential impacts from the proposed action and for DOE’s identification of Alternative 4 as its preferred alternative.

Mesa County Board of Commissioners and Montrose County Board of Commissioners support DOE’s preferred alternative.

L53-4 Telluride is located about 50 mi or more east to southeast of ULP lease tracts. Wind roses for Pinon Ridge Mill (Figure 3.1-1) indicate that westerly and northwesterly winds are considerably frequent. These winds can transport pollutants to the east or southeast, toward Telluride. However, wind rose for Nucla (about 11 mi east of Pinon Ridge Mill) (Figure 3.1-2) shows that easterly winds (heading to the west) predominate due to the orientation of nearby valleys. Although the area is located in the prevailing westerlies for upper air, surface winds vary drastically from location to location due to complex terrains and diverse land covers.

PM10 and PM2.5 emissions associated with ULP activities are estimated to account for up to 3.2% and 1.4%, respectively, of the three county totals (Table 4.5-1). ULP lease tracts are scattered over 50-mi stretch, and terrain features and elevations around each lease tract are dissimilar. Thus, air emissions from ULP lease tracts are not transporting to one direction, rather spreading over all directions. In addition, high mountain ranges (over 8,000 ft) intervening between Telluride and ULP lease tracts act as a barrier, for which surface-level emissions are not readily crossing over the ranges. (High-level emissions from large power plants with tall stacks can be transported to the farther distances along with westerly upper winds.)

Considering all these factors, ULP activities could influence air quality on surrounding areas but potential impacts on ambient air quality around Telluride are anticipated to be negligible to minor.

Town of Telluride, Commenter ID No. L53 (Cont.)

by the prevailing winds. Dr. Williams has also established that these aerosols and solutes will be released in both precipitation and non-precipitation events (dust storms) as they reach the San Miguel Mountains as our mountains are the first major orographic barrier to be encountered following initial transport. Additional mining and transport from new sources will involve increased wind borne radionuclide particles. The question is not whether this will occur, but how significant is the increase of airborne and wind borne radionuclide particles as a direct result of potential mining for uranium. The Town is concerned about the negative effects mining will have on the quality of our air, visual impacts, and impacts on human health.

The Town is also concerned about the negative impact renewed mining would have on the region's water quality- both for surface and groundwater sources. The increased presence of radionuclide particles that will contaminate our surface water bodies, currently used as our municipal drinking water source, is of critical concern to the Town of Telluride. On a broader scale, the Town is also concerned with the potential for surface and ground water contamination that may not be limited to our region, but might actually impact a wide range of users within the larger Colorado River basin area, downstream of the proposed uranium mining area. Groundwater and surface water sources are typically interconnected and if one source is contaminated, the water needs of a large area could be at risk. Also, that some of the mining sites are a mere .25 miles away from the Dolores River seems an insufficient setback to adequately protect that water supply, which may also fail to protect the aquatic and ecological needs of that river. An additional concern is the direct or incidental de-watering of aquifer water supplies. In light of increasingly hot and dry seasons and continuing regional drought conditions, maintaining the region's water quality is an incredibly important concern of the Town of Telluride.

In addition to various environmental concerns, the Town of Telluride has several concerns regarding human health impacts as a result of uranium mining in the surrounding counties. We appreciate that some may feel that new and improved regulations may ameliorate the well-known and acknowledged environmental and health impacts of the uranium mining industry. However, the Town of Telluride has grave doubts about essentially performing a "new experiment" for uranium mining when the ill effects of the prior highly impactful experiment have yet to be fully understood or even remediated. The emission of radon is the acknowledged primary source of potential human health radiation exposure. Such exposure has been known to cause birth defects, infant mortality, and increased childhood and other cancers. The Town is concerned that re-initiating mining activities could unnecessarily expose residents to toxic materials. It is crucially important that should mining activities continue, radon levels are kept to a minimum, monitored continually, and evaluated regularly to ensure the greatest protection for local residents.

Further, while the PEIS goes into great detail regarding all the various sites and mining activities on each site, there is little discussion of the waste generated from mining activities and the responsibilities and costs of cleanup. It would be incredibly irresponsible to re-initiate mining activities without a comprehensive plan to deal with the proper storage and disposal of existing and future hazardous waste materials. The Town is concerned about the lack of accountability expressed in regard to waste products generated by the Uranium Leasing Program. The Summary and Comparison of Potential Environmental Impacts under the different alternatives in regard to waste management on page S-48 is insufficient and the Town would like to see a more detailed and secure evaluation in order to ensure adequate protection of the environment and human health from uranium mining wastes.

L53-4
(Cont.)

L53-5 The town of Telluride is located more than 50 miles upstream from the nearest ULP lease tracts. We do not expect any direct negative impacts on the areas upstream from the ULP lease tracts. This study has provided an extensive analysis of existing and future impacts associated with the ULP lease tracts. On the basis of recent results from the state water quality monitoring program (CDPHE's report and 303 [d] list), we did not find that any impaired water body in the area is evidently associated with ULP lease tracts (Chapter 3). A variety of causes of potential future impacts have also been analyzed in Chapter 4. Although these potential impacts are minor to moderate, mitigation measures included in the PEIS cover a wide range of approaches so that when implemented, potential impacts can be minimized.

L53-5

L53-6 Mining activities will comply with applicable regulations and implement necessary mitigation measures.

The human health evaluation performed for the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5; and the cumulative impacts section in 4.7) included estimates for potential radon exposure to off-site residents, and these results show that the estimates for DOE's preferred alternative indicate that the potential cancer risk, i.e., the probability of developing a cancer, associated with living close to a uranium mine would be less than 4×10^{-5} per year at a distance of 500 m, the risk would decrease to 2×10^{-5} per year at a distance of 1,500 m, and decrease further to 1×10^{-5} per year at a distance of 2,500 m. If there are multiple uranium mines close by, then the cancer risk would increase, depending on the distance to each mine. Risk from multiple years of exposure can be determined by multiplying the annual risk given in the PEIS with the number of years of exposure. The estimated risks are in addition to the risks from the background environment. Because of the high uranium content in soils in this area, the cancer risk from the background environment was estimated to be about 3×10^{-4} per year (corresponding to 430 mrem/yr).

L53-6

Mitigation measures are identified in Section 4.6 to assure that uranium mining activities at the ULP lease tracts are implemented in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

L53-7

L53-7 Wastes generated from the mining activities are discussed in Sections 4.1.13, 4.2.13, 4.3.13, 4.4.13, and 4.5.13.

As described in these sections, the bulk of waste generated would be waste rock that would be reclaimed on site; remaining waste would be mostly trash generated in the course of daily operations (e.g., lunch room garbage, packaging material from supplies). This waste would be taken to a local landfill. Any other material or wastes that could contain low-level radioactivity are either taken to the mill for processing or to a licensed low level radioactive waste disposal facility.

Town of Telluride, Commenter ID No. L53 (Cont.)

In regards to noise created at and around the mining sites, the Town of Telluride requests that ULP activities conform to federal, state, and local noise regulations. In the PEIS, Alternatives 1 and 4 both acknowledge that noise levels could exceed Colorado maximum limits (S-45). Further, the PEIS contradicts itself when it states in the Cumulative Impacts section that “[p]lanned and ongoing actions ... are not expected to exceed the maximum permissible noise levels (S-76).” The Town would like more assurances and consistency in the PEIS’s acoustic analyses. Should the noise levels exceed maximum permissible levels it would seem that, contrary to the PEIS, noise-related cumulative impacts would not be minor.

Finally, regarding transportation impacts, the Town is already conscious of and sensitive to its carbon footprint which is exacerbated by transportation in and around the valley. Since Alternative 4 would increase transportation related effects such as pollution and traffic due to the round-trip trips of the uranium ore shipments, Telluride is concerned with the additions to the region’s carbon footprint. Conversely, Alternative 1 does not require transport of uranium ore and therefore will result in no change to regional traffic, emission, and carbon footprint impacts.

Overall, the Town prefers Alternative 1 because it is the least impactful on the environment, ecology, and human health. The only impacts would be from reclamation activities and would be minor. Although reclamation of these historic mining sites cannot restore the pre-mining resources values, Alternative 1 would allow for the next best case scenario. Additionally, Alternative 1 provides for long-term localized improvements to wildlife habitats. In contrast, Alternative 4 has an unsatisfactorily high impact on the environment, ecology, human health, and other social factors in the region. Should the DOE decide to pursue Alternative 4, the Town would like to see a more detailed site-specific and/or project-specific NEPA analysis applied to all mining activities and more detailed mitigation measures in the PEIS as a whole. Further, the Town cannot overstate the importance of including detailed waste treatment, storage, and a disposal plan for all waste generated from the renewed mining.

The Town of Telluride feels the compliance and mitigation measures included in the draft PEIS are appropriate, but believes that the best mitigation measure is to terminate all leases and reclaim the disturbed tracts. The Town’s concerns will be greatly reduced if there is no ongoing or renewed uranium mining in western Colorado. The Town would like to see a demonstrated domestic need for uranium to justify any Alternative other than Alternative 1. The Town is in agreement with San Miguel County that analysis is needed to understand whether this is a prudent time to develop these reserves, especially in light of the availability of lower cost alternative energy sources. The DOE might consider the viability of reclaiming these lands and developing alternative renewable energy, including solar, instead. The history of uranium mining has demonstrated the boom/bust nature of the industry and consequently the un-reclaimed mining sites that sit inactive for decades. Under Alternative 1 the DOE retains the control and authority to re-lease the sites should domestic need arise in the future. Until then the uranium should be preserved and the land withdrawn and reclaimed.

Finally, notwithstanding the concerns listed here, the Town feels it important to keep these lands withdrawn and in the control of the Department of Energy, so long as the lands are managed consistent with our concerns.

L53-8 As discussed in the PEIS, noise levels would attenuate to either Colorado or EPA noise limit at a distance of up to about 1,650 ft (500 m) from mine activities. Four residences (near lease tracts 13, 13A, 16, and 16A) are located within this distance from the lease tracts boundaries. If mine activities would occur near both the lease tract boundary and these residences, noise limits would be exceeded at those residences. In this case, noise mitigation measures (e.g., use of engine silencers, use of low-noise equipment, limit of operating hours, noise barriers for stationary noisy sources) could be implemented to minimize noise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. In addition, a noise impact analysis based on specific operational conditions considering noise levels based on the actual number and type of heavy equipment, work schedule, topography, meteorological conditions, and others, could be done.

In general, about 3 mi is the farthest distance that noise would be discernible (over the background level but does not mean at high level) except extremely loud noise, e.g., large explosion. About 5 mi might be possible if all other factors are exceptionally favorable (e.g., meteorological conditions, ground effects, low background noise, etc.). Different from cumulative impacts of air quality, if noise levels from two sources at a receptor are different by more than 10 dB, lower noise source does not contribute to composite noise levels. In other words, if noise levels from two sources at a receptor are 65 dB and 52 dB, then composite noise level is slightly higher than 65 dB (65.2 dB). In general, noise is not additive unless similar level noise sources are located equidistant from a receptor (in this case, composite noise levels will be 3 dB higher than higher noise level between the two, and this change is the just noticeable difference). During the daytime hours, noise can’t travel over a long distance due to skyward refraction caused by temperature lapse (i.e., temperature decreases with increasing height, so sound tends to bend towards the sky). During the nighttime hours, sound can travel over a longer distance (compared to the distances estimated based on isothermal atmospheric conditions vertically) due to temperature inversion (opposite to temperature lapse). In most cases, noise dissipates rapidly with distance and noises from two or more sources are not cumulative unless these sources are located equidistant from a receptor and have similar noise levels. In the DPEIS, 10-hour daytime work schedule is assumed. In this case, the influence of radius from a lease tract is less than 1 mi. If nighttime schedule is included, then the influence of radius from a lease tract will be up to 2-3 mi. Overall, considering the separation distances of and sizes of lease tracts, cumulative noise impacts would be minor, although noise exceedances would be anticipated at several receptors if mine activities would occur nearby.

L53-9 The transport of uranium ore would result in impacts as provided in the EIS. As discussed in Section 4.5.10.1.1, the potential peak year uranium ore truck travel of 2.72 million mi for Alternative 5 could result in an increase of about 22% in truck miles travelled on the affected roads on an annual basis. However, the additional truck miles travelled is also less than 4% of the total vehicle miles travelled annually on these roads in a peak year. Compared to all state roads (i.e., includes interstates but no county or local roads) in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties, the peak year truck miles are less than 3% of the total truck miles traveled in those counties in 2011.

L53-10 Comment noted.


L53-11 See response to L53-1.


L53-12 See response to L53-1.

L53-13 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS’s stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS’s scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease

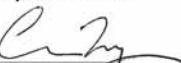
Town of Telluride, Commenter ID No. L53 (Cont.)

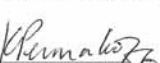
Sincerely yours,



Stuart Fraser
Mayor of Telluride



Ann Brady
Telluride Councilmember


Thom Carnivale
Telluride Councilmember


Chris Myers
Telluride Councilmember


Kristen Permakoff
Telluride Councilmember


Bob Saunders
Telluride Councilmember


Brian Werner
Telluride Councilmember

tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license “would be inimical to the common defense and security” or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE’s proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

L53-14 Use of land for renewable energy development is outside the scope of this PEIS and does not meet the “Purpose and Need” discussed in Section 1.4.

L53-15 See response to L53-13.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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JUN 21 2013

Ref: 8EPR-N

Mr. Ray Plieness
PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, Colorado 80021

Re: Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement CEQ #20130060

Dear Mr. Plieness:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 has reviewed the Draft Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Our comments are provided for your consideration pursuant to our responsibilities and authority under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2)(C), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609.

Project Description

The DOE prepared the Draft PEIS to analyze the reasonably foreseeable potential environmental impacts, including site-specific impacts, and a range of reasonable alternatives for the management of the ULP. DOE's ULP administers 31 tracts of land covering an aggregate of approximately 25,000 acres (10,000 ha) in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel Counties in western Colorado for exploration, mine development and operations and reclamation of uranium mines. There are 29 existing lease tracts in the project area; two of the tracts are not currently leased. The following five alternatives are considered in the Draft PEIS:

- Alternative 1 would involve terminating the existing leases and conducting reclamation as needed;
- Alternative 2 would involve terminating the leases and conducting reclamation as needed and then relinquishing all the land to the Bureau of Land Management;
- Alternative 3 would continue with exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation at the 13 lease tracts for which leases expired prior to July 2007 and terminating the remainder of the leases;

- Alternative 4, the DOE's preferred alternative, would continue, with some changes, the leases for the next 10 years or another reasonable period, as appropriate; and
- Alternative 5, the no action alternative, would continue the leases exactly as they are written for the remainder of the 10-year period plus the time necessary to complete the PEIS.

The EPA's Comments and Recommendations

The EPA provided scoping comments and we participated as a cooperating agency for this project. The DOE addressed many of our comments in this Draft PEIS resulting in a better explanation of the environmental impacts of the program. Through this process, we have narrowed our recommendations for information that the DOE consider including in the Final PEIS or future project-specific NEPA documents. The following comments and recommendations focus on waste rock piles, human health risk and water impacts.

Waste Rock Piles

Covering the waste rock with an adequate amount of soil is necessary to reduce emissions of radioactive particulates and radon thereby reducing potential for exposure to radiation. Within the PEIS there are inconsistencies in the descriptions of waste rock pile reclamation, making it unclear whether there will be adequate soil cover. Page 4-22 states that during reclamation, waste-rock piles will be covered by a layer of soil to facilitate vegetation growth and page 2-29 states that waste rock would be graded with the slope of the area and then seeded to conform to its surroundings. Also, Table 4.7-7 indicates that some waste-rock piles have been covered with soil, but it is not clear whether there are other waste-rock piles that remain uncovered. We recommend that the Final PEIS clarify that all waste rock will be covered with a protective layer of soil.

We support the mitigation measure in Table 4.6-1 stating that the operator will use modeling and/or monitoring to determine the adequate thickness for surface soil covering waste rock piles, and we recommend that future project-level NEPA documents include the procedures and methods that will be used to determine the minimum cover thickness required to effectively reduce the emissions of radioactive particulates.

Human Health Risk Assessment

COMPLY-R

The DOE used the CAP88-PC model to estimate radiation doses and associated risks for all scenarios considered (e.g., hypothetical small, medium, large and very large mines). For comparison purposes, the COMPLY-R model was used to estimate radiation doses and associated risks for a hypothetical small mine. COMPLY-R is required for determining compliance with the radon National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) of 10 millirem (mrem) per year, found in 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart B. The Draft PEIS does not include results from COMPLY-R for a medium, large, or very large mine and it is unclear how radiation doses will compare to the NESHAP when COMPLY-R, the required computer code, is used for these hypothetical larger mines. We recommend that the Final PEIS provide a table of modeled COMPLY-R results for each hypothetical mine size and compare the results to the NESHAP standard.

L43-1

L43-1

Text has been revised to state clearly that all waste rock piles will be covered with a protective layer of soil consistent with mitigation measures identified in M-11 (see Section 2.2.4.1)

Future project-level NEPA reviews would include the procedures and methods that will be used to determine the minimum cover thickness required to effectively reduce the emissions of radioactive particulates, as appropriate.

L43-2

L43-2

The COMPLY-R estimates for medium and large mines have been added to Table 4.3-4 in Section 4.3.5.3. The radiation doses associated with a medium and large mine are 2 and 4 times of those associated with a small mine. COMPLY-R is more appropriately used to model point sources such as vent holes from underground mines. The very large mine that is included in the PEIS analysis is an open-pit mine (and no future underground mine would be expected to be as large as this very large mine), and is more appropriately modeled as an area source using a model such as CAP88-PC. Hence, in order to provide consistent estimates across all mine sizes considered in the PEIS, CAP88-PC was also used to estimate doses (for the small, medium, large, and very large mines) in addition to those for COMPLY-R (for the small, medium, and large mines). Estimates for both models are presented in Table 4.3-4 in Section 4.3.5.3.

Risk Assessment Scenarios

The Draft PEIS includes an exposure analysis for a mine worker during the operational phase of the mine. It does not include an exposure analysis for a worker performing reclamation in that mine. We recommend that the Final PEIS include an exposure analysis for a worker performing reclamation in the mine or explain why exposures from reclamation in the mine are not included in the risk assessment.

The Draft PEIS does not include an analysis of the risk to a recreationist during the operations phase. There is a potential for recreationists to have greater (short-term) exposure to radiation and radon compared to off-site residents. We recommend that the Final PEIS analyze the risk from the operations phase to a recreationist. As an alternative, the DOE could explain why this receptor was not included in the analysis.

Some of the scenarios analyzed in the risk analysis appear to lack relevant site-specific information. The Draft PEIS assesses the risk assuming resident exposure to one operating mine or a single waste-rock pile. It is not clear whether a resident could be exposed to more than one operating mine and/or waste-rock pile at a time. We recommend that the Final PEIS clarify and update the analysis based on the number of operating mines and waste rock piles a resident may be exposed to. Alternatively, if this information cannot be determined at this time, we recommend that the DOE update the analysis in a future project-level NEPA document.

Radon Risk from Daneros and Whirlwind Mines

Table 4.7-4 states that radon emissions would quickly disperse and that there would be no impact to the general public from the Daneros mine and Table 4.7-5 states that no general public health impacts are predicted from the Whirlwind mine. Although the risk may be very small, stating that the risk is zero is inaccurate. We recommend that the Final PEIS include the dose for the nearest member of the public from Rn-222 from each of these mines, or if a quantitative assessment is not available, we recommend stating that the dose will be limited to below the 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart B regulatory limit of 10mrem/year.

Water Resources

Water Use

The Draft PEIS states that 6.3 million gallons per year of water will be trucked in for use at the mines. The impact of this water use on the local water supply is not provided. Knowing the source of this water and other water demands and trends for different water uses such as irrigation, municipal and domestic use is important for understanding the potential water supply impacts. We recommend that the Final PEIS describe the anticipated water source or sources, and include a water supply analysis for all types of uses in future project-specific NEPA documents.

Surface Water

Water resources in the region affected by this action include surface water in the Upper Dolores, San Miguel and Lower Dolores Rivers. Under all five alternatives, impacts on water quality could occur as a

L43-3 Radiation dose rate of a worker performing reclamation in the mine would be bounded by that of a miner. Text stating this has been added to Section 4.1.5.3.

Although the radiation dose rate to a recreationist may be higher during the operations phase than after the operations phase, the exposure time would be much shorter. As a result, the total dose could be smaller. The presence of mining equipment, mining infrastructure and workers would deter recreationists from entering a lease tract with mining activities going on. Text accompanying estimates for this scenario has been added to the PEIS (see Section 4.3.5.4).

It is possible that exposure to a resident receptor could be from multiple waste rock piles or mines in the future; presently this condition does not exist for any of the mine operations. If this situation occurred in the future, prior to approving mining plans, follow-on NEPA reviews when information regarding such circumstances is known would be required, as appropriate.

L43-3

L43-4 Text has been revised per comment. The revised text states that the dose would be limited to 10 mrem/yr or less which is the regulatory limit per 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart B. No quantitative information is presented in the documents examined for these two projects. See Tables 4.7-4 and 4.7-5.

L43-5

It is likely that water use for ULP activities would be obtained from sources within the Dolores River Basin mainly across three counties, as discussed in Sections 4.3.4.2 and 4.4.4.2. The possible sources are the existing water right owners in the mining industry, and municipal water. In the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for JD-8 and JD-6, it is stated that water is expected to be obtained from the Nucla and Naturita Municipal Systems. Cotter Corporation has obtained their water supply from these municipal systems for previous mining operational needs. As indicated in Section 4.4.4.2, the expected water use for the proposed action is about 0.1% of the public water supply demand compared to regional water use in these three counties. As recommended, text has been revised in Sections 4.3.4.2 and 4.4.4.2 to state that further specific evaluations would be included in future project-specific NEPA reviews.

L43-4

L43-6

The existing leases require DOE approval prior to resuming operations per article Appendix C.1.a which will require mitigation measures identified in the PEIS to be implemented as a condition of approval of the plans. DOE plans to evaluate if the current leases should be modified to directly incorporate compliance and mitigation measures identified in the PEIS in addition to the present approval process. Additional measures provided in the mine plans would be addressed in follow-on NEPA reviews at that time per EPA's recommendation.

L43-5

An evaluation for the existing surface water quality near the lease tracts is discussed in Section 3.4.1.2. The evaluation was performed using the recent state water quality data. State permits and inspection reports to date reflect the activities of the lessee in addressing existing concerns with Lease Tract 13.

L43-6

Data that have been collected for the UMTRA Slick Rock Site were reviewed to provide an indication of impact to the Dolores River from Lease Tract 13 because the Slick Rock East Site is located on Lease Tract 13. The data indicate no impacts to date to surface water quality of the Dolores River from past milling and mining activities on Lease Tract 13. Surface water samples have been collected from the Dolores River at Slick Rock from 1987 to 2012. There are three sample locations in the area that support the ongoing investigations of the UMTRA Slick Rock East Site. The background collection point is located in the river directly in front of the Burro Mine site. The other two surface water collection points are located approximately 2,100 feet and 2,600 feet downstream of the background point, respectively. To date, the surface water data collected have indicated very low concentrations (background levels) with the highest concentration of uranium (as a metal) reported to be 0.055 mg/L (from 2006

result of land disturbance and underground mining activities associated with mine development, operations, and reclamation. These impacts would be minimized by the implementation of compliance and mitigation measures and/or best management practices that will be identified in the mine plans. We recommend that the DOE consider requiring the compliance and mitigation measures that are identified in mine plans in future project-specific NEPA and leasing documents.

The Draft PEIS states that the radioactive and chemical constituents of concern are not expected to reach a surface water body near the mining site. We recommend that the Final PEIS explain that this conclusion is based upon new mining activity being restricted within 0.25 miles of perennial streams. We also recommend that the Final PEIS clarify that this mitigation measure applies to springs and other surface water that can be accessed by wildlife and livestock.

L43-6
(Cont.)

Although the DOE is planning to restrict mining activity within ¼ mile of the Dolores River in the future, past mining activities within ¼ mile of the river may have resulted in adverse impacts. Based on the description of the lease tracts in Section 1.2.3, it appears that mining activity may have taken place within ¼ mile of the Dolores River. A description of any known impacts would provide a better understanding of existing conditions. We recommend that the Final PEIS include a description of identified impacts to the Dolores River or its adjacent aquatic resources.

Drinking Water

We appreciate the DOE's efforts to provide information regarding specific mine locations so that we could compare those locations to public drinking water supply sources. We are not currently aware of any public drinking water supplies or source water protection zones that are within the leasing areas. In order to ensure the public is aware of the public drinking water supply sources (e.g., surface water sources including groundwater under the direct influence of surface water sources, and groundwater sources) and to ensure that those sources are protected from potential impacts associated with uranium mining, the EPA recommends that the Final PEIS include a map of the current source water protection areas compared to the lease areas. The source water protection zones are available directly from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Source Water Protection Program Coordinator, John Duggan at (303) 692-3534.

The Draft PEIS states on page 3-73 that groundwater wells located along the pathways of groundwater flow from the lease tracts to the areas of groundwater discharge would have relatively high potential to be affected if groundwater within the lease tracts is adversely affected. The document identifies 15 domestic wells within 1,000 feet of lease tracts that are located along these pathways. It does not explain why potential impacts would be limited to wells with 1,000 feet. We recommend that the DOE consider the hydrogeology in assessing potential impacts to domestic wells and identify in the Final PEIS all domestic wells that could be impacted even if they are greater than 1000 feet from the lease tracts or describe the rationale for limiting the analysis area to 1000 feet.

L43-7

We recommend that the DOE identify and assure protection of all Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs) in the leasing area in the Final PEIS or future project-specific NEPA documents. Federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations define a USDW as an aquifer or portion thereof: (a) (1) which supplies any public water system; or (2) which contains a sufficient quantity of ground water to supply a public water system; and (i) currently supplies drinking water for consumption;

sampling); and the highest isotopic data to date reported as 0.99 pCi/L for uranium-234 (in 2001) and 0.73 pCi/L for uranium-238 (in 2000). PEIS text has been revised to include this information and citation.

L43-7

Based on the comment, Section 3.4., has been revised to reflect the latest information from the CDPHE water protection program database on source water protection zones for public water supply system. The revised text does still indicate that there are no source water protection zones located in the lease tract area. Upon further discussion with EPA with regards to the recommendation of adding a map to the Final PEIS, it was determined that this would not be needed consistent with the preferences of the state of Colorado. All wells outside of 1,000 ft. from the lease tracts are not on the potential groundwater flow pathways. Text has been revised in Section 3.4.2 to include this information.

Text has been added to the PEIS to state that additional measures to assure protection of all Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDWs) would be addressed in future project-specific NEPA reviews.

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or (ii) contains fewer than 10,000 milligram per liter total dissolved solids and (b) which is not an exempted aquifer (See 40 CFR Section 144.3).

L43-7
(Cont.)

EPA's Rating and Recommendations

Consistent with Section 309 of the CAA, it is the EPA's responsibility to provide an independent review and evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of this project. Based on the procedures the EPA uses to evaluate the adequacy of the information and the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, the EPA is rating this Draft PEIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2). The "EC" rating indicates that the EPA review has identified environmental impacts that need to be avoided in order to protect the environment. The "2" rating indicates that the EPA review has identified a need for additional information, data, analysis or discussion in the Final EIS in order for the EPA to fully assess environmental impacts from the proposed project. A description of the EPA's rating system is enclosed.

L43-8

L43-8 DOE appreciates the effort by the EPA as a cooperating agency for the ULP PEIS process.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these documents, and hope our suggestions for improving them assist you. We would be happy to meet to discuss these comments and our suggested solutions. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments, please contact me at (303) 312-6925 or Vanessa Hinkle of my staff at (303) 312-6561.

Sincerely,



Suzanne J. Bohan
Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Enclosure



Uranium Watch

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July 1, 2013

Mr. Raymond Plieness
ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, Colorado 80021
ulpeis@anl.gov

RE: Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft ULP PEIS, DOE/EIS-0472D), for public comment.

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Below please find the Comment on the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS), DOE/EIS-0472D. These comments are submitted on behalf of Uranium Watch and Living Rivers of Moab, Utah.

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

1.1. The DPEIS must provide a full accounting of how the mines on the ULP have been operated and regulated in the past. Information of the previous mitigative measures, reclamation requirements, radioactive cleanup standards, control of ground and surface water contamination, surface runoff, surface disturbance and contamination, exploration drill hole reclamation and handling of drill cuttings, baseline radiation surveys,

1.2. The DPEIS must include information regarding the regulations that were applicable to the mines during exploration, development, production, periods of non-operation, reclamation, and other aspects of mine operation since the commencement of mining activity. There is no data regarding how the mines may or may not have been in compliance with DOE and State of Colorado uranium mining regulations over time.

L48-1

L48-1 Site-specific information that provides the discussion requested is summarized in Section 1.3 of the PEIS.

L48-2

L48-2 See response to L48-1; also Chapter 5 of the PEIS contains a summary of regulations related to the ULP proposed action. Additionally, see the site-specific information in Section 1.3.

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1.3. The DPEIS is full of statements, data, opinions, and conclusions that have no citations. The reader of the DPEIS has no idea where the information came from or whether it has any basis in fact. The PEIS must include specific citations (including pages and paragraphs) for all substantive information and data in the PEIS.

L48-3

1.4. The DPEIS has no information regarding how the lease tracts have been managed in the past and the nature, extent, and results of monitoring, inspections, and mitigative efforts. The PEIS must include this information. The public can only assume that past actions, or inactions, will guide future actions, or inactions

L48-4

1.5. Commenters do not believe that there is any reasonable basis for continuing the Uranium Lease Program (ULP) into the future. The main purpose for continuing the program is to delay the reclamation of the individual lease tracts. As contemplated by the DOE, the leasing program will go on indefinitely, with no end in site. As has been shown by the history of uranium mining in the region, most uranium mines remain in a non-operational status, with accompanying site degradation, for decades.

L48-5

1.6. Commentors support Alternative 1, where the DOE would terminate all leases, all operations would be reclaimed by lessees, and the DOE would continue to manage the withdrawn lands, without uranium leasing, in accordance with applicable requirements. Site reclamation activities should commence as soon as possible. This is the only alternative that is protective of the health and wellbeing of the public and the environment.

L48-6

1.7. The PEIS must include a full accounting of the money that has been spent by the DOE to administer and enforce the ULP. This would include federal monies spent to reclaim ULP sites. It would include the costs to the DOE and other federal and state agencies to administer and enforce the ULP and the state and federal statutes and regulations that are applicable to the ULP mining operations. It would also include an estimation of future costs to the DOE and other federal and state agencies to administer and enforce the ULP and applicable statutes and regulations for each of the PEIS alternatives.

L48-7

1.8. Lysimeter monitoring: The PEIS mentions several mines where lysimeters have been placed downgradient to determine whether near-surface soils or rock formations contain moisture that could affect (or be affected by) the mine site. However, there is no information about what, exactly, is the significance of the data, what is being done with the data, and how the data is being used by the mine operator, DOE, or State of Colorado.

L48-8

1.9. The DEIS fails to include a program for the long-term monitoring, care, and maintenance of the lease tracts after reclamation is completed. Such a program, with interim actions to monitor and maintain existing reclaimed areas must be part of the DOE ULP.

L48-9

L48-3 Citations were included to support information presented in the DPEIS. The document has been reviewed to augment citations as needed in the process of preparing this Final PEIS. All references and supporting documentation are available on the web site at <http://ulpeis.anl.gov/documents/dpeis/references/index.cfm>.

L48-4 The evaluations conducted for the PEIS used site-specific information, including information regarding past mining (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). DOE considers the information adequate to support the alternatives evaluated and for making any decisions relative to these alternatives. Although site-specific information for future mines will not be available until the lessees submit specific mine plans, information available from past mining activities such as the understanding on cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, waste rock and ore characteristics, and transportation practices and routes is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future mining activities for the five alternatives. The site-specific information reviewed for the PEIS is summarized in Section 1.3 of this PEIS.

L48-5 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L48-6 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

L48-7 The discussion on cost in administering the ULP to date and in the future is outside the scope of the PEIS. However, the PEIS does include an analysis of the cost to carry out exploration, mine development/mine operations, and reclamation as these items are relevant to determining potential impacts to socioeconomic aspects. However, for information, the annual royalties were recalculated and reallocated to the 1996 lease agreements, and again to the 2008 lease agreements to be equal to or exceed the administrative costs of the program.

L48-8 Cotter Corporation has installed lysimeters downgradient of four of its mine sites (6, 8, 9, and 18) to determine if water is infiltrating the waste-rock piles and leaching contaminants into the subsurface soils and potentially into groundwater. Cotter has been monitoring these lysimeters on a monthly basis for approximately six years. To date, three of the four lysimeters (8, 9, and 18) have been continuously dry (never had any water to monitor). The lysimeter at 6 has had a minimal amount of water on two different occasions (and not consecutive months). Although there was not enough water to sample for the entire suite of potential contaminants, preliminary indications noted minimal levels of uranium in the water. Monitoring results are reported to the CDRMS as part of the sites routine environmental monitoring.

L48-9 Reclaimed sites are monitored (1) for a period of at least 3-5 years after reclamation is complete to ensure that the site is stable and that revegetation efforts are successful, and (2) periodically after that to identify any issues that may arise in the future.

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2. DPEIS, Section 1.1, Background, page 1-1 to 1-5.

COMMENT

2.1. The PEIS must provide information on the ore produced from 1949 to 1962 from each lease tract or mine. This information is important in order to determine the applicability of 40 C.F.R. Part 61 Subpart B to the mines and mine complexes in the lease tracts. A mine that has or will produce over 100,000 tons of ore over the life of the mine is subject to the Subpart B standard and requirements. That information should be readily available to the public.

L48-10

L48-10 The tonnage of uranium ore generated to date at the ULP lease tracts is summarized in Table 1.1-2.

3. DPEIS, Section 1.1, page 1-2, lines 16 to 20.

COMMENT

3.1. The PEIS states that in 1974 lease agreements stated that a new lessee could incorporate an existing mine. The PEIS must provide information regarding which 1949 – 1962 mines were incorporated into subsequent operations and which 1949 – 1962 mines were not incorporated into new operations.

L48-11

L48-11 Subsequent to the execution of the 1974 lease agreements, only lessees on 7 leases have chosen to resume mining activities at prior existing mines; thereby incorporating those mines into their current operations and accepting the liability for final reclamation of the site. These actions included operations on lease tracts C-SR-10, C-SR-11, C-SR-13, C-SR-13A, C-SR-15, C-G-26, and C-G-27.

4. DPEIS, Section 1.1, page 1-2, lines 31-32.

COMMENT

4.1. This Section appears to indicate that all legacy sites were reclaimed and none of the reclaimed sites have been incorporated into subsequent new operations. This should be clarified. Information regarding past reclamation projects and the relationship between these projects and the current and proposed leases must be included. On reason for this is existing site degradation associated with current lease tracts; for example, erosion in reclaimed areas.

L48-12

L48-12 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed in accordance with existing guidelines and regulations. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

5. DPEIS, Section 1.1, page 1-2, line 32, to page 1-5, lines 1 to 2.

COMMENT

5.1. The PEIS must identify the locations and extent of the reclaimed legacy sites.

5.2. The PEIS must fully discuss and describe the reclamation actions the current state of the reclaimed areas. The DOE spent less than \$8,000 to reclaim each site, therefore, the reclamation actions would have been minimal.

L48-13

L48-13 See response to L48-12.

5.3. The PEIS must provide information regarding the current radiological contamination at the reclaimed legacy sites, how radiological contamination was addressed, and the cleanup action levels or standards used at each site.

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5.4. The PEIS must identify the location and extent of the reclaimed legacy sites. The PEIS must include information regarding the State of Colorado requirements for plugging of exploration holes, handling of cuttings, pre- and post-drilling radiological surveys, and return of surface soils to pre-drilling radiological levels.

L48-13
(Cont.)

6. DPEIS, Section 1.1, page 1.7 - 1.9, Table 1.2-1.

COMMENT

6.1 The Summary of the 31 DOE ULP lease tracks in 2011 indicates that there are no more areas that need to be reclaimed under current conditions for tracks 10, 11A, 12, 15A, 16, 16A, 5A, 17, 19, 19A, 20, 21, 22, 22 A, 23, 25, and 27. The DOE must provide the bases for these determinations.

L48-14

L48-14 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

7. DPEIS, Section 1.2.1, page 1-11, lines 24 to 28.

COMMENT

7.1. This provision must also include reclamation performance bonding for existing environmental disturbance, not just foreseeable disturbance.

L48-15

L48-15 Lease tract operations are currently covered by reclamation bonds, calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

7.2. Provisions must also include assessment of current disturbance and reclamation of areas that are not part of current operation plans.

See also response to L48-14.

8. DPEIS, Section 1.2.1, page 1-12, lines 24 to 26.

COMMENT

8.1. The DOE has no basis for the proposed 3 to 5 year post-reclamation monitoring. There is no basis for the assumption that the required levels vegetation reestablishment will occur in 3 to 5 years. Throughout the Colorado Plateau there are hundreds of lands disturbed by uranium mining activities. Such historic disturbance is clearly visible on aerial photographs, many decades after the original disturbance. Based on historic disturbance, it will take many decades for the original vegetation to return to original vegetation levels of size, extent, and diversity.

L48-16

L48-16 Past reclamation experiences are the basis for the 3 to 5 years post-reclamation monitoring assumption. Re-seeding performed for reclamation completed to date has demonstrated this time period to be adequate to provide reasonable assurances of sustainability for vegetation cover.

8.2. Sites must be monitored for compliance with revegetation standards, erosion, off-site contamination of soils—far into the future.

9. DPEIS, Section 1.2.2, Lease Requirements, page 1-13, lines 9 to 12.

COMMENT

9.1. The PEIS should include a discussion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the DOE review of site-specific mining plans.

L48-17

L48-17 This discussion is included in Section 1.7 of the PEIS.

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10. DPEIS, Section 1.2.3, Site Specific Information for the ULP Lease Tracts, page 1-13 to 1-27.

COMMENT

10.1. This section contains maps of the mine areas. The maps do not place the mines on a topographic map that would show the location, topography, roads, surface water, and other pertinent information regarding the mine site location. The PEIS must contain better maps: maps that show the section/township/range, topographic features, surface water, and other pertinent information regarding site locations.

L48-18

L48-18

The maps contained in this section are intended to show the reader the location and extent of site-specific, mining-related features associated with the “actively permitted” mining operations located on each particular lease tract.

11. DPEIS, Section 1.2.3, Site Specific Information for the ULP Lease Tracts, page 1-13, lines 25 to 27.

COMMENT

11.1. This section references 8 “permitted mines.” This section must provide information regarding the permitting agencies and the applicable permitting regulations. The PEIS must include substantive information about these permits, including permit applications, permit number, year permitted, permit activities, reclamation, bonds, mine plans, mitigative measures, length of operation under the permit and other information relevant to the permitted activities at the lease tracts.

L48-19

L48-19

Text has been revised that permits need to be obtained from CDRMS, the state agency that oversees mining activities on the ULP lease tracts.

Permit-specific information can be found in the permit amendment reports for some of the lease tracts on the CDRMS web site.

12. DPEIS, Table 1.2-2, Estimated Ore Reserve at the ULP Lease Tracts, page 1-14.

COMMENT

12.1. Table 1.2-2 does not provide information regarding the estimated “ore reserves.” Rather, it provides information regarding the estimated amount of uranium that would be removed from the ore after processing at a uranium mill (measured in pounds). Table 1.2-2 must also include the estimated amount of “ore” remaining in the mines, measured in tons.

L48-20

L48-20

Citing the “tonnages” of ore remaining for each lease tract is not practicable. The “ore reserves” information presented in this table is based on numerous calculations derived from past exploration activities and includes the summation of multiple tonnages of ore at various grades.

13. DPEIS, Section 1.5, Scope of the Draft PEIS.

COMMENT

13.1. The major, but unacknowledged, purpose of the alternatives that allow for continuation of the leasing program is the indefinite delay of full mine reclamation. That has been the result of the leasing program over the past 30 years, since the majority of mines operated in the 1980s.

L48-21

L48-21

The intended purpose in evaluating the range of reasonable alternatives is to provide an understanding of the potential impacts for informed decision making. Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

State law requires lease holders to enter Temporary Cessation (TC) if inactive for more than 180 days for an initial period of 5 years. A second 5 year TC may be granted by the State. However, under no circumstances shall the TC period be longer than 10 consecutive years. If TC reaches the 10 year maximum, or a second 5 year period is not granted, an operator is required to either reactivate for a year or fully comply with reclamation and Environmental Protection Plan requirements.

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the greatest amount of time since the inception of the production of ore at the mines on lease tracts that are currently permitted. A rough analysis of tracts 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 18, from the years they commenced production of ore to the present (or when reclamation commenced), shows that from 79% to 94% of time (with an average of 87%) the mines have been non-operational (on standby). Some mines would be slightly less, taking into consideration the exploration and mine development phase. The length of time of non-operation ranges from 7 to 30 years, with an average of 24 years. Some mines were developed, but never went into production. The DPEIS fails to provide any information that would lead to the conclusion that the future of the ULP would be any different. This means that the primary phase associated with the ULP is a lengthy period of non-operation, often lasting decades. Based on the past, any future mining activity would, in fact, consist primarily of "non-activity."

13.3. The PEIS must acknowledge this significant phase and provide a full and accurate characterization and analysis of this phase and its environmental consequences. This must include both the previous and future periods of non-operation.

14. DPEIS, Section 2.1, Uranium Mining Methods and Phases, pages 2-3 to 2-17.

COMMENT

14.1. This section of the DPEIS appears to ignore the existing mining development on the lease tracts. The PEIS must include information on the operations, methods, and phases associated with existing permits and mining operations (historic and current). The PEIS should include a table showing each previous phase and the length of each phase. This should include the major phase associated with the lease tracts: the non-operational phase.

14.2. The PEIS must also address requirements and actions associated with short-term and long-term periods of non-operation in order to keep the mine sites safe, address environmental degradation, and prevent migration of contaminants both on and off site. The PEIS must address the need for lease tract management plans for periods of short-term and long-term periods of non-operation.

14.3. Periods of non-operation at various uranium mines in the Colorado Plateau have resulted site hazardous conditions and site degradation, including: removal of waste rock, migration of radioactive and non-radioactive contaminants both on and off-site, erosion, uncontrolled flow of storm water, vandalism, accumulation of trash and unused equipment, flooding of wet mines, accumulation of hazardous materials (e.g., blasting materials and transformers), and unplugged vents and holes. The DOE must require interim site management plans for all lease tracts, no matter what alternative is chosen.

L48-21
(Cont.)

L48-22

L48-23

L48-24

L48-22 Site-specific information including that requested is summarized in Section 1.3 of the PEIS.

L48-23 See response to L48-21.

L48-24 See response to L48-21.

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15. DPEIS, Section 2.1.3, Uranium Mining Methods and Phases, Reclamation, page 2-13.

COMMENT

15.1. The PEIS must also consider and analyze the need for reclamation at lease tracts if the ULP continues. Existing mining operations have structures, waste dumps piles, equipment, erosion, contamination and other features that could and should be remediated NOW, rather than waiting for some unknown future time when mining activities have been completed. Thus far, 8 lease tracts have has essentially open-ended lease arrangements, so that the mines sit for decades without active mining and without reclamation. During those periods there are hazards at the sites and unaddressed degradation of the lease tracts. Reclamation should be a continuous process, not something left for a half-century or more into the future, as will be the case with some tracts under a new leasing program.

15.2. The discussion of reclamation activities does not mention covering the waste dumps with soil and rock to reduce radon and radioactive and hazardous particulate emissions, cleanup of soils and sediments contaminated by radionuclides (both on and off the mine site), radionuclide and other Reclamation Performance Standards, road and mine access reclamation, establishment of vegetation test plots, and other aspects of the reclamation process. This information must be part of the PEIS.

16. DPEIS, Section 2.2.3, 2.2.4, and 2.2.5, Five Alternatives Evaluated, Alternatives 3 - 5, pages 2-21 to 2-32.

COMMENT

16.1. The discussion of Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 makes certain assumptions regarding development, production, and reclamation schedules. These sections anticipate peak production periods and reclamation periods. The DPEIS assumes 10 years or more of production. Given the history of these lease tracts since the mid-1970s, there is little basis for these scenarios. For example, for the 8 permitted tracts ore production lasted from a few months to 7 years. A rough average is about 4 years of production. Some mines on these lease tracts were developed, but never produced ore. The PEIS must acknowledge the fantasy nature of these operation and peak production scenarios, and consider more realistic scenarios. The most realistic scenario is the one where there is little or no mine development on the lease tracts over the next 10 to 20 years.

16.2. The PEIS must consider a situation where the holder of a current leases is not able to conduct further mine operations and must reclaim the site, pursuant directives by the State of Colorado. The PEIS must consider whether, under those circumstances, that lease tract will be available to another lessee in the future.

L48-25

L48-25

Reclamation of mine areas within the lease tracts is stipulated in the leases. Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Text has been revised to clarify that all waste rock piles would be covered with a protective top layer material and vegetation to reduce particulate and radon emissions (see Section 2.2.4.1) and as identified in mitigation measure M11.

L48-26

L48-26

The assumptions were made to provide a conservative but realistic upper bound scenario so that the PEIS evaluations can be used to support the range of reasonable alternatives considered.

Re-leasing a lease tract would be considered if this occurs within the timeframe covered by the PEIS and if the ULP exists.

A mitigation measure providing a buffer of 1/4 mile from the Dolores River is included in Section 4.6 (Table 4.6-1).

See response to L48-1.

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16.3. This section must also consider past mine development as well as future mine development at the lease tracts.

16.4. No mine development should be allowed within a minimum of 1 mile from the Dolores River corridor. No mine development should be allowed in an area where there is the potential for any run-off from the mine site to reach the Dolores River.

L48-26
(Cont.)

16.5. These sections contain numerous factual statements and assumptions, but fails to provide footnotes with citations for these statements. The PEIS must provide citations for substantive facts and opinions.

17. DPEIS, Section 2.4.2, Summary and Comparison of the Potential Impacts from the Five Alternatives: Acoustic Environment, page 2-38.

COMMENT

17.1. This section must consider the noise from ventilation fans that are placed near the surface at the top of ventilation boreholes. These fans made a very loud roaring noise that can be heard for over a mile, depending on the topography. Next to a fan, it sounds like one is next to a major highway or on the tarmac of an airport. The noise from these fans, which can operate 24 hours a day, must be considered.

L48-27

L48-27 The PEIS has been revised to add a discussion and evaluation of potential impacts from ventilation fans (see Sections 4.1.2, 4.2.2, 4.3.2, 4.4.2 and 4.5.2).

18. DPEIS, Section 2.4.5, Summary and Comparison of the Potential Impacts from the Five Alternatives: Human Health, pages 2-40 to 2-42.

COMMENT

18.1. The section on Human Health should have included citations for the data and assumptions.

L48-28

L48-28 Citations have been added (citations were included in Section 4 of the DPEIS).

18.2. The DPEIS estimates that the waste rock would contain an average of 23.7 pCi/gm of radium-226. This should be compared with the EPA criteria for cleanup of radionuclides in rocks and soils at uranium processing sites. The cleanup standard is 5 picocuries per gram (pCi/g), averaged over the first 15 centimeters (cm) below the surface, and 15 pCi/g, averaged over 15 cm thick layers more than 15 cm below the surface.¹ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established site-specific radiation standards for the cleanup of uranium mine sites. The DOE must develop remedial action standards for radioactivity at all lease tracts.

The use of 23.7 pCi/g of radium-226 in the PEIS evaluation is meant to provide a conservative analysis accounting for the possibility of mixing of small amounts of uranium ore in the waste rock pile. This is not to say that the waste rock piles would actually contain this concentration of radium-226. Calculations based on this value would result in higher doses than that for the 5 pCi/g standard.

Also see response to L48-25.

18.1. The DPEIS makes no mention of radon and radionuclide particulate exposure from contaminated soils, evaporation ponds, water treatment facilities, water catchment basins, and other sources of radioactive contamination both onsite and offsite. There is no discussion of the collection of baseline data, establishment of radiological Reclamation

L48-29

L48-29 The exposures to the radiation sources during the active mining phase are included in the radiation dose monitoring data of uranium miners, which are discussed in the PEIS. The water and sediments in evaporation ponds, water treatment facilities, and water catchment basins would be sampled and if necessary, treated then disposed of in licensed facilities after the active mining period; therefore, the potential exposure to the residual radioactivity in these sources would be greatly reduced, and is expected to be less significant than the exposure to the radioactivity contained in waste-rock piles. Exposure to radioactivity in waste-rock piles are evaluated in the PEIS for both on-site and off-site receptors through the inhalation of radon and particulate pathways during the reclamation and post-reclamation phases. Baseline exposures through inhalation of radon and particulate pathways were established with sampling data and are discussed in Section 3.5 and listed in Table 3.5-3.

¹ 40 C.F.R. Part 192 § 192.32(b)(2).

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Performance Standards, and the regulation of radionuclide emissions from other sources at the lease tract sites. These aspects of radionuclide exposure must be included in the PEIS.

L48-29
(Cont.)

18.2. The PEIS must acknowledge that EPA standard for radon emissions will only be applicable to underground mines that have or are expected to produce over 100,000 tons of ore.² The PEIS must acknowledge that there are no radiation dose standards for the emission of radon from mines that are expected to produce 100,000 tons or ore or less.

L48-30

L48-30 Text has been revised in these sections to provide the clarification.

18.3. The PEIS must consider and acknowledge that, except for the measurement of radon emissions from mines that have or are expected to produce 100,000 tons of ore, there are no other radionuclide emission or dose standards from uranium, and uranium progeny, including radon. There are no requirements to measure these emissions, calculate doses, or monitor onsite or offsite emissions or doses. Emissions from existing and new contaminated soils, ore storage piles, ore pads, waste dumps, evaporation ponds, water treatment facilities, catchment basins, and other radionuclide sources will not be measured. So, whatever the DOE imagines the doses or emissions to be, there are no standards or monitoring requirements, other than Subpart B.

L48-31

L48-31 See response to L48-30.

18.4. The discussion of accidents and fatalities associated with uranium mining (page 2-42) should include a citation for the information that provides a basis for these conclusions. The PEIS should include updated information for uranium mine workers, not just any mine worker. For example, from 2007 to 2010 there were two operating uranium mines in nearby La Sal, Utah. The operation of these 2 mines produced one fatality.

L48-32

L48-32 The citation of the statistical data based on which the numbers of worker injury and fatality were estimated is provided in Section 4.3.5.1. Statistical data for uranium mining were not available; therefore, data for general mining were used.

The prediction of injuries and fatalities provided in the PEIS should be interpreted from a statistical perspective. The numbers among individual mines could be different. These statements have been added to Section 4.3.5.1 of the PEIS.

18.5. The PEIS must acknowledge and analyze the increased potential for uranium mine worker accidents due to the lack of mine and uranium-mine experience. The fewer months and years that a worker has experience, the more likely it is for an accident. Due to the many years since the height of uranium mine production and high turnover of workers, it is likely that many of the workers would have extensive experience and extensive training in underground uranium mine operations.

L48-33

L48-33 Statistical data on mining injuries and fatalities do not contain information on worker training and experience. Therefore, predictions of injuries and fatalities factoring into account the level of worker training and experience cannot be made. However, a statement has been added in Section 4.3.5.1 of the PEIS to acknowledge that proper training and extensive experience would reduce mining accidents, thereby reducing injuries and fatalities.

18.6. The PEIS must analyze the requirements for mine rescue teams and emergency responders to be available in case of mine accidents, given the isolated location of the lease tracts.

L48-34

L48-34 The lessees are required to provide response rescue teams for their operations and this information is included in the Environmental Protection Plans (EPPs) that are required by the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mine, and Safety (CDRMS).

² 40 C.F.R. Part 61 Subpart B.

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19. DPEIS, Section 2.4, Proposed Actions and Alternatives, Summary and Comparison of the Potential Impacts from the Five Alternatives, Ecological Resources, pages 2-43 to 2-71.

COMMENT

19.1. Section 4 fails to include the impacts during the lengthy non-operational phase of mining operations. The whole discussion of the impacts fails to include existing impacts, which should be characterized in the PEIS as to the length of time of the impacts, nature, and extent.

L48-35

L48-35 Section 2.4.6 summarizes the impacts on ecological resources that are described in greater detail in Chapter 4. The measures to minimize potential impact from ULP mining identified in Section 4.6 will be implemented over the lifetime of a mine site. Thus, significant adverse ecological impacts from periods of mining inactivity are not anticipated. The discussion of ecological resources in Section 3.6 and Section 4.1.6 describe existing conditions on the lease tracts, which includes inactive and reclaimed mine site areas.

19.2. The PEIS must include a complete assessment of all current and past impacts to Ecological Resources for the mine lease program. It must include a complete assessment of the impacts associated with the primary operational phase; that is, lengthy periods of non-operation.

L48-36

L48-36 See response to L48-35.

19.3. Section 4 fails to include the historic and current site conditions and impacts in the estimations of the Impact Level. This information must be included in the PEIS.

L48-37

L48-37 See response to L48-35.

19.4. The failure of the DPEIS to include the current and historic site impacts and failure to include the lengthy periods of non-operation as a major phase associated with the mine leases calls into question the veracity of the PEIS and any opinions and conclusions therein.

L48-38

L48-38 See response to L48-35.

19.5. Section 2.4.1, Air Quality (page 2-36) fails to include the total CO₂ emissions from exploration, operation, periods of non-operation, and reclamation of the lease tracts. This data must be included in the PEIS.

L48-39

L48-39 In Chapter 4, CO₂ emissions associated with exploration, mine development, mine operations, and reclamation activities of the lease tracts are estimated (see Tables 4.1-1, 4.3-1, 4.4-1, and 4.5-1) and are compared with total greenhouse gas emissions for Colorado (2010) and U.S. (2009). However, discussion on CO₂ emission data and potential impacts of ULP activities is omitted in Section 2.4.1 (page 2-36 to 2-37). This data and relevant discussion will be included in Section 2.4-1 of the final PEIS.

19.6. Throughout the discussion of the impact to various aspects of Ecological Resources, the DEIS refers to "potential" or "likely" impacts and fails to state whether those potential, likely, or anticipated impacts have, in fact, already occurred. The PEIS must include the actual impacts from the ULP up to the present, not just "potential" impacts. The PEIS must fully discuss the ongoing impacts from existing conditions from now until reclamation actually occurs, which may be decades away if the ULP program continues or is expanded.

L48-40

L48-40 See response to L48-35.

19.7. Section 2.4.6.1, Vegetation, fails to discuss the existing impacts to vegetation, length of time of those impacts, their nature, and extent. It fails to recognize the long periods when no mining activity will occur and no reclamation activities will take place. The PEIS must include an evaluation of the impacts to vegetation due to extensive periods of non-operation and delay of reclamation.

L48-41

L48-41 Section 2.4.6.1 is a summary of the impacts described in greater detail in Chapter 4. When the selected alternative is implemented, long periods of inactivity are not expected. Existing conditions on the lease tracts, which result in part from past impacts, are described in the Affected Environment, Section 3.6.1, and in Section 4.1.6.1.

19.8. Section 2.4.6.3, Biota, states that "potential impacts from mine development and operations would last at least 10 years prior to reclamation." Page 2-47, lines 20 to 21.

L48-42

L48-42 See response to L48-35.

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Here the DPEIS totally ignores past periods of time for mine development and operations at the lease tracts, which include lengthy periods of non-operation. Many of the impacts are sustained and exacerbated during these periods of permittee indifference and DOE and State of Colorado regulatory incompetence and indifference. The DPEIS ignores the fact that there will be lengthy periods of non-operation in the future for all the mineral lease sites. The PEIS must take into consideration the full history of each uranium lease site and the past and expected periods of non-operation.

L48-42
(Cont.)

19.9. Section 2.4.8, Socioeconomics, fails to consider the impacts from the boom and bust uranium mining economy. This section fails to consider the social and economic impacts from periods of non-operation, when workers are laid off, with little idea of when or if they may return to work at the mine. The PEIS must fully examine the Socioeconomic impacts to the community from past ups and downs of the uranium industry in the area.

L48-43

L48-43 As presented in Table 2.4-8, mining and development operations under Alternative 5 could create as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs. This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI. Although some communities could be affected disproportionately, it is likely that employment would draw from each of the counties because the leases extend across the ROI. In addition, the larger towns of Grand Junction and Montrose are within commuting distance and could help prevent boom and bust economies in smaller communities. Sections 4.3.8, 4.4.8, and 4.5.8 acknowledge that “ individual municipalities in smaller rural communities might experience a temporary increase in population from workers if they moved to communities closer to mining projects rather than commuting from longer distances elsewhere in the ROI” and that the impact on individual communities could vary. However, because the number of employees required for mining operations and development would represent such a small increase in employment, the impacts of a boom and bust economy was not considered in detail.

20. DPEIS, Proposed Actions and Alternatives, Summary and Comparison of the Potential Impacts from the Five Alternatives, Section 2.6. Preferred Alternative Identified, page 2-72.

This section states: *DOE’s preferred alternative for the management of the ULP is Alternative 4. DOE would continue to allow, after appropriate NEPA analysis, the exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation of uranium mines on the 31 lease tracts that are being managed under the DOE ULP. Page 2-72, lines 7 to 10.*

COMMENT

20.1. The DPEIS neglects to state that, under Alternative 4, the DOE would permit extended periods of non-operation of existing and future mining operations on the lease tracts. The DPEIS does not include an “appropriate NEPA analysis” of this major phase of ULP lease track operations. It appears that the primary, but unacknowledged, purpose of Alternative 4 is the continued non-operational status of the existing lease tract operations. It also appears the DOE has no intention whatsoever of including an “appropriate NEPA analysis” of the environmental impacts associated with the past and future lengthy periods of non-operation. This is a clear violation of the NEPA process.

L48-44

Section 3.8 of the PEIS discusses current and historic economic environment in the ROI. An overview of periods of boom and bust economic conditions in the ROI has been added.

L48-44 State law requires lease holders to enter Temporary Cessation (TC) if inactive for more than 180 days for an initial period of 5 years. A second 5 year TC may be granted by the State. However, under no circumstances shall the TC period be longer than 10 consecutive years. If TC reaches the 10 year maximum, or a second 5 year period is not granted, an operator is required to either reactivate for a year or fully comply with reclamation and Environmental Protection Plan requirements.

20.2. This section also states: *Under Alternative 4, the lease period would be for the next 10 years or for another reasonable period Page 2-72, lines 12 to 13.* Here the DPEIS fails to even attempt to frame “another reasonable time period” or state what is meant by “reasonable.” Give a 10-year lease period, plus the average period on mine standby, or non-operation of 24-years, the DOE must think that a “reasonable” time period is at least 34 years.

L48-45

L48-45 DOE would consider the extension of a lease for another reasonable period on a case-by-case basis and would do so within the framework of NEPA and the administrative requirements of the ULP.

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20.3. This section also states: *Hence, the number of years available for ore generation would be shorter under Alternative 5 and might not give the lessees enough flexibility to time their mining activities to coincide with periods when the economic market for uranium ore was favorable.* Page 2-72, lines 15 to 17. The PEIS must include information on the history of the “periods when the economic market for uranium ore was favorable” for the development of the lease tract mining operations. It must also include information on the current market conditions over the past 10 years and the expected future market conditions. Given that the spot price of uranium recently dropped below \$40.00 and that uranium mining companies are making decisions based on the drop in price, not a price upturn, the DOE must be forthright in its discussion of the length of time it will take for the economic market for uranium ore to become favorable. Meanwhile, the PEIS must also analyze the impacts of the ULP program while the uranium investors and mining companies wait for the favorable uranium economic market to magically reappear.

21. DPEIS, Section 3.4.1.2, Affected Environment, Water Resources, Surface Water, Existing Water Quality, pages 3-58 to 3-66.

COMMENT

21.1. This section fails to include information on the contamination of surface water resources from uranium, radium, and other radionuclides. The section fails to include information regarding the possible sources of such contamination from the lease tracts and other historic uranium mine and mill sources. The PEIS must include this information.

21.2. This section fails to include Summit Canyon, originating in eastern Utah. The Canyon is shown on the map in Figure 3.4-5, Location of Impaired Water Bodies. There is no mention of a reclaimed uranium mine and historic discharge of uranium mine water at the head of Summit Canyon from the Calliham Mine.³ There is no mention of the existing Sage Mine⁴ waste rock pile on the side of Summit Canyon. There is no information regarding the uranium, radium, and other radioactive and non-radioactive constituents in sediments in Summit Canyon or in other ephemeral streams and washes in the ULP impacted area. The information should be included in the PEIS.

³ <http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermitinfo.php>

⁴ Id.

L48-46

L48-46 The evaluation of the economic market is outside the scope of the PEIS and does not meet the purpose and need described in Section 1.4. The stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium that would adequately meet the nation’s defense needs, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting for, exploration for, mining of, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States. 42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097. Those two AEA provisions are consistent with the need of assuring an adequate supply of domestic uranium, from an active program of issuing leases or permits for exploring, mining, and removing deposits of uranium ore. An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

L48-47

L48-47 The section identified all impaired water bodies within the three watersheds that encompass all ULP lease tracts. The impaired water bodies were determined by the state through its water quality program. Radiation, uranium (U), and radium (Ra) are the part of monitoring parameters that were measured for assessment of water quality. As indicated in this section, we found that no impaired water, which includes no elevated radiation, U, and Ra in water, is evidently associated with the historical mining activities within the ULP lease tracts based on the CDPHE’s report and 303 (d). In Colorado, there are a few impaired water bodies that have elevated radiation and U. None of them are located in the watersheds that were evaluated in the section.

L48-48

L48-48 On the basis of CDPHE’s information on surface water quality, we have not found any impaired water body from Summit Canyon to Dolores River, which is downstream from the two mines, Calliham and Sage. The mining operation at Calliham was terminated in 1981 (or 1982) and resumed briefly in 1991-1992. There was an operation violation that was reported in 1982 for the Calliham mine as “waste water produced on the maintenance and wash pads” being directly released into the environment. The waste water contained solvents and oils from the equipment surface. However, there was no report of discharge of uranium mine water as cited in the comment.

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22. DPEIS, Section 3.6.4.1.2, Affected Environment; Ecological Resources; Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species; Species Listed Under the Endangered Species Act; Birds, pages 3-164 to 3-167.

COMMENT

22.1. The discussion of Gunnison Sage-Grouse and the map at Figure 3.6-15 (Distribution of Potentially Suitable Habitat for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse in the Vicinity of the ULP Lease Tracts) fails to mention or show the occupied and unoccupied critical habitat for Gunnison Sage-Grouse just over the boarder in San Juan County, Utah. The fact that there is critical habitat in Utah adjacent to the lease tract is ignored. It is hard to understand this significant oversight. The US Fish and Wildlife Service map of the Gunnison Sage-grouse Critical Habitat, Unit 1: Monticello-Dove Creek; San Juan County, Utah; Montrose, San Miguel, and Dolores Counties, Colorado clearly shows the connections between the critical habitats that straddle the Utah-Colorado border.⁵ Birds have not been known to recognize state boundaries.

L48-49

L48-49 On January 11, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposed to list the Gunnison sage-grouse as an endangered species under the ESA. At that time, the Service proposed to designate 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for the species. Portions of the proposed critical habitat include the overall range data presented in Figure 3.6-15. The most recent available geospatial data pertaining to the species' critical habitat will be used to update the map and text for the Final PEIS.

23. PEIS, Section 3.7.4.1, Affected Environment; Land Use, Mineral Resources and Mining, Uranium, Table 3.7-6, page 3-190.

COMMENT

23.1. The following corrections and additions should be made to Table 3.7-6:

A. Pandora/Snowball/Beaver should read "Pandora/Beaver/La Sal." The La Sal portal, not the Snowball, recently produced ore.

L48-50

L48-50 The information on Table 3.7-6 has been revised, as applicable.

B. The Pandora/Beaver/La Sal Site Status: This mine complex is no longer in production. The mine complex has temporarily ceased operation, and it is not known when, or if, operations will resume.⁶

C. The Velvet may have a permit, but it is not for production. It will have to submit a new plan of operations to the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and have that approved before they could commence mining.

⁵ http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/gunnisonsagegrouse/Unit1_Monticello-DoveCreek011013.pdf

⁶ <http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermit.php?M0370026>
<http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermit.php?M0370012>

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D. The Daneros Mine is also no longer in production.⁷ The mine complex has temporarily ceased operation. The mine owner has proposed expansion to a large mining operation. It will take a few years to complete the application and approval process for a large mining operation.⁸

E. The mine identified as the La Sal, Laramide Resources, Ltd., should be identified as the "La Sal No. 2."

F. The Table should include the Sage Mine, at the head of Summit Canyon just over the boarder in Utah. It is permitted by DOGM, but not by the BLM, though it is on BLM land. The Sage is the mine in Utah that is nearest to a DOE lease tract.

24. DPEIS, Section 4.3, Alternative 3, page 4-72.

This section states (in part): *The three phases involved in uranium mining (exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation) are evaluated for this alternative. The exploration phase is assumed to require a relatively short duration of time, from 2 weeks to a month for each mine; however, it can occur annually over the course of several years. Mine development and operations would be conducted for about 10 years. Reclamation would be conducted within a time frame of 2 to 3 years after operations ceased.*

COMMENT

24.1. Again, the DPEIS ignores the primary phase of uranium mining: extensive periods of non-operation. Also, the time frames for the mine development and reclamation are not realistic. In order for the EIS to provide an honest and complete assessment of future time frames for exploration, development, operational, and reclamation, it must include all data on the exploration, development, operation, **non-operation**, and reclamation phases for all of the lease tracts mining operations. This history would provide a more reasonable basis for the time-frame guesstimations in the PEIS.

21.2. The PEIS must also include the information regarding the reclamation that needs to be conducted now at each of the lease tracts. The DOE cannot continue to use the ULP to delay indefinitely reclamation at the lease tracts. There are existing waste rock piles and other impacted areas that will not be part of future mine development and operations. Those areas, plus any radioactive contamination above background levels must be cleaned up NOW, not at some indefinite time in the future.

⁷ <http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermit.php?S0370121>

⁸ <http://linux1.ogm.utah.gov/WebStuff/wwwroot/minerals/mineralsfilesbypermit.php?M0370126>

L48-50
(Cont.)

L48-51

L48-51 Reclamation is required by Federal and state law and by provisions of the lease. Consistent with state requirements, one lease holder has filed EPPs and another lease holder has submitted reclamation plans. State law requires lease holders to reclaim within five years of inactivity. The state has the authority to extend this time period for an additional five years.

L48-52

L48-52 See response to L48-51.

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24.3. Alternative 3 must also include an evaluation of the impacts from site cleanup and reclamation prior to any new development and operations at the lease tracts.

L48-53

L48-53 See response to L48-52.

25. DPEIS, Section 4.3.1.2, Alternative 3, Air Quality, Mine Development and Operations, page 4-74.

COMMENT

25.1. The section on Air Quality completely neglects to characterize and describe the impacts from the on-site and off-site emissions of uranium and uranium progeny. This includes impacts from dispersion from existing site contamination. This section of the DPEIS fails to include information on the cumulative radon emissions from the underground mine workings, including radon emissions that fall under the 40 C.F.R. Part 61 Subpart B standard and those that do not. The information must be included in PEIS.

L48-54

L48-54 Potential impacts due to emissions of radon, uranium, and uranium progenies during the exploration, operation, reclamation, and post-reclamation phases of uranium mining are discussed in the Human Health Impact sections of the PEIS. Radiation exposures associated with existing environmental conditions were also estimated and presented in the "Affected Environment" section in Chapter 3.

25.2. The section on Air Quality complete fails to include data and information regarding non-radioactive toxic emissions from waste rock, ore, ore pads, contaminated soil, and other site sources. The PEIS must include this information.

L48-55

L48-55 The comment states that the section on Air Quality fails to include data and information regarding non-radioactive toxic emissions from waste rock, ore, ore pads, contaminated soil, and other site sources. It should be noted that non-radioactive toxic air emissions were estimated for site preparation, use of explosives, wind erosion, and combustion of diesel fuel in engines during exploration and mine construction activities and the use of various heavy equipment (such as dump trucks, bulldozers, motor graders, etc.) and drilling equipment during operations and reclamation activities. The air emissions from site erosion include those from various sources including waste rock, ore, ore pads, soil and other site sources.

26. DPEIS, Section 4.3.1.3: Alternative 3, Air Quality, Reclamation, page 4-75.

COMMENT

26.1. The section on Reclamation does not include consideration of reclamation and clean up prior to future development of the lease tracts. The PEIS must also include this information and analysis. Continuation of the ULP program must not be used as a justification for delays in cleanup and reclamation of existing lease tract contamination and environmental impacts, as it has for decades.

L48-56

L48-56 The comment states that the section on Reclamation does not include consideration of reclamation and clean-up prior to future development of the lease tracts. Air emissions were predicted for reclamation activities associated with the development of the various mines as a function of PEIS alternatives, as shown in Table 4.1-1 for Alternatives 1 and 2, Table 4.3-1 for Alternative 3, Table 4.4-1 for Alternative 4, and Table 4.5-1 for Alternative 5. For more details, please see Tables C.3-6 and C.3-7 in Appendix C ("Emission Inventories, Costs, and Other Estimates Used as a Basis for the ULP PEIS Impact Analyses") in the Draft PEIS.

27. DPEIS, Section 4.3.2.2: Alternative 3, Air Quality, Acoustic Environment, Mine Development and Operations, page 4-76 to 4-78.

COMMENT

27.1. The section on acoustic impacts during development and operations fails to include a discussion of the noise from the operation of the underground mining ventilation system. This is an example of a lack of familiarity with the actual uranium mining operations on the part of the DOE and the developers of the PEIS. The roaring noise from these ventilation systems can be extremely loud and travels for some distance. The ventilation fans on the surface can operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The noise disturbs the human and animal environment. The PEIS must include an assessment of

L48-57

L48-57 In the DPEIS, a 10-hour daytime work schedule is assumed for noise impact analysis. If ventilation fans can operate around the clock as commenter mentioned, potential noise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors (e.g., residences, wildlife habitat) are anticipated, especially during the nighttime hours when the background noise levels are lowest. On a calm, clear night typical of the ULP lease tracts setting, the air temperature would likely increase with height (temperature inversion) because of strong radiative cooling. Such a temperature profile tends to focus noise downward toward the ground. There would be little, if any, shadow zone within 1-2 mi of the noise source in the presence of a strong temperature inversion. Potential impacts of ventilation fans operation on nearby sensitive receptors will be included in the Final PEIS.

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the noise levels associated with the operation of the mine ventilation system and their impacts.

L48-57
(Cont.)

28. DPEIS, Section 4.3.3: Environmental Impacts, Alternative 3, Geology and Soil Resources, page 4-79 to 4-81.

COMMENT

28.1. The PEIS evaluation of Geology and Soil Resources must include information on the current and cumulative impacts to Geology and Soils from the ULP.

L48-58

L48-58 Sections 3.3, 4.1.3, 4.2.3, 4.3.3, 4.4.3, and 4.5.3 include the information and evaluation regarding geology and soils for the ULP lease tracts.

28.2. The PEIS must include an assessment of erosion on all lease tracts and fully document erosion at existing lease tracts, including erosion on lease tract areas that were previously "reclaimed." Uranium Watch has observed clear evidence of erosion at a previously reclaimed area on a lease tract near Slick Rock. It is apparent that past reclamation efforts have not been totally successful. All existing lease tract reclamation projects should be fully assessed to evaluate the effectiveness of previous reclamation efforts. Any erosion or other problems associated with past reclamation must be addressed.

L48-59

The evaluation is based on the site-specific information summarized in Section 1.3. Erosion issues have not been identified.

L48-59 See response to L48-58

28.3. Existing site radioactive contamination above background at previously reclaimed areas must be cleaned up. The DOE has allowed high levels of radioactive contamination to remain in reclaimed and un-reclaimed areas of the lease tract sites. The DOE has totally failed in its responsibility to establish radiation-contamination action levels for the ULP program. The DOE must establish such standards for lease tract reclamation.

L48-60

L48-60 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

29. DPEIS, Section 4.3.4: Environmental Impacts, Alternative 3, Water Resources, page 4-82 to 4-88 .

COMMENT

29.1. The DPEIS describes various elements potentially affecting Water Resources and the potential environment impacts from the continuation and expansion of the ULP. However, the DPEIS fails to characterize and consider the current and historic impacts from the various elements. The PEIS must include the ongoing and cumulative impacts to Water Resources from the existing and historic lease tract development. The PEIS must not limit its consideration of impacts to future or expected impacts. The PEIS must include a full description and assessment of what is going on now with respect impacts to Water Resources.

L48-61

L48-61 The current impacts to water resources have been discussed in Chapter 3. The analysis of future impacts is based on the historical information and site-specific information summarized in Section 1.3 of the PEIS.

29.2. The PEIS must include a radiological assessment of existing stormwater retention basins. Historic stormwater retention basins, or ponds, are known to have higher levels

L48-62

L48-62 As discussed in Chapter 3, no impaired water body was found associated with lease tracts and their stormwater retention basins based on the state water quality monitoring data including measuring parameters of radiation, U, and Ra.

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of radiation than the surrounding mine site. The cumulative impacts from the accumulation of radionuclides in the sediments of retention basins must be evaluated.

L48-62
(Cont.)

29.3. The PEIS must include a discussion of radiological monitoring for contamination of Water Resources.

L48-63

L48-63 The implementation of relevant mitigation measures, permitting, BMPs, and Federal and state regulations is discussed in Section 4.6. These will include radiological monitoring for water resources.

29.4. The PEIS must include an assessment of radiological contamination of Water Resources as a result of soils, sediments, surface run off, and groundwater that has migrated, is migrating, or may migrate to off-site locations.

L48-64

L48-64 The analysis indicates that off-site migration of radiological contaminants is minimal. The BMPs and mitigation measures are recommended in the Section 4.6 and Table 4.6-1.

29.5. The DPEIS (page 4-85, lines 29 to 32) states that a "total of 3,200,000 gal/yr (9.8 ac-ft/yr) would be used by all eight mines operating during the peak year." The DPEIS assumes that the water for the various mining operations would be trucked to the sites, because sources of water near the lease tracts are scarce and often of poor quality. The DPEIS fails to provide information regarding the amount of water that would be needed to develop, operate, and reclaim each lease tract. The DPEIS fails to include information about the actual off-site sources of water and how the DOE will determine if the owner of the rights to the water actually has the right to use the water for purposes of mining at the specific lease tracts. There are often questions regarding whether owners of water rights have filed the appropriate applications to make use of the water for mining at specific mine sites. The DOE has an obligation to assure that all water used for lease tract mining has been the subject of the required water-rights appropriation process. Until such processes are complete, the DOE's determination that the impacts on local water sources would be minor is totally premature.

L48-65

L48-65 The amount of water and source of the water needed for the proposed action is discussed in the PEIS in Section 2.2.

29.6. The DPEIS states: *The potential for groundwater contamination is likely to be limited to wet mines in Lease Tracts 7 and 9 in Paradox and Lease Tract 13 in Slick Rock.* Page 4-86, lines 42 to 43. The PEIS must include information on the history of the impacts of any past mining activity at the wet mines. This would include a history of any National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Ground Water Discharge permits, compliance with applicable ground water and discharge standards, mine water treatment systems, evaporation ponds, monitoring systems, mine-water treatment waste disposal, and any other information related to past and current impacts from the wet mines in Lease Tracts 7 and 9 in Paradox and Lease Tract 13 in Slick Rock. The PEIS must include an assessment of all past and current impacts that are unique to these wet mines.

L48-66

L48-66 On the basis of available data, no groundwater contamination has been identified from these wet mines. Site-specific information regarding the lease tracts has been incorporated into the PEIS analysis. The site-specific information is presented in Section 1.3.

29.7. The DPEIS states: *There are 5 domestic wells within or near the edge of Lease Tract 13, and 14 domestic wells are located along the potential groundwater flow pathways from Lease Tracts 7, 9, and 18 to the groundwater discharge area.* Page 4-87, lines 1 to 3. The PEIS must include information about, and an assessment of, the cumulative impacts to the domestic wells within, near, and along potential ground-water flow pathways from Lease Tracts 13, 14, 7, 9, and 18.

L48-67

L48-67 Because of the presence of these private wells, several actions are recommended in this section to minimize the impacts. As analyzed in this section, impact is minimal to private wells if suggested mitigation measures, permitting, BMPs, and Federal and state regulations are implemented.

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29.8. The DPEIS states: *The impacts of groundwater contamination could be minimized by the following actions (Table 4.6-1) . . . Page 4-87, lines 5 to 6. The DPEIS then lists five (5) possible mitigative measures. However, the DPEIS neglects to provide information regarding the effectiveness of these proposed measures. The PEIS must include information regarding the effectiveness of the proposed mitigative measures.*

L48-68

L48-68 The proposed actions cover a wide range of approaches including underground water control, surface water and shallow groundwater flow diversion, active pumping and treatment, and monitoring system. These are among the most effective approaches.

29.9. The DPEIS discussion of the impacts to Water Resources from Reclamation at Section 4.3.4.3 (page 4-87 to 4-88) provides only minimal information regarding the impacts during and after reclamation. The DPEIS fails to assess the long-term impacts from the delays in reclamation due to the continuation of the ULP and additional decades added to previous decades when reclamation will be delayed. The PEIS must assess the impacts from the extensive delays in reclamation as a result of the ULP, including past, current, and future delays in reclamation actions.

L48-69

L48-69 For delayed reclamation, the impacts would be the same as those in the exploration phase and are evaluated for the exploration.

29.30. The PEIS discussion of the impacts of to Water Resources from Reclamation must include information regarding the extent of backfilling at the mines and the characteristics and impacts associated with the backfill materials. This includes cumulative impacts.

L48-70

L48-70 The extent of backfilling is site-specific and would be addressed in specific mine plans.

29.31. The PEIS must include the impacts from all current, historic, and future land disturbances, erosion, and contaminant migration in the Dolores River water shed.

L48-71

L48-71 The current impacts from erosion and contaminant migration associated with the Lease Tracts in the Dolores River watershed have been evaluated in Chapter 3 and the future impacts are discussed in Chapter 4.

30. DPEIS, Section 4.3.5.1: Environmental Impacts, Alternative 3, Human Health, Worker Exposures – Uranium Miners, pages 4-88 to 4-90.

COMMENT

30.1. The DPEIS relies on scientific notation (e.g., 7E-05) to evaluate risk and other aspects of worker health and the overall operation of uranium mines. Many of the people who will read the PEIS and try to make sense of this data will not be familiar with this form of presenting data. Therefore, the PEIS must show data and other information in a more usable form; that is, using a lot of zeros or using words, rather than using the type of scientific notation currently in the DPEIS. The data and information in the PEIS must be readily accessible to the public.

L48-72

L48-72 The estimated human health risk results are put into perspective to facilitate the reader's understanding of the report. In addition to presenting the estimated LCFs in scientific notation, explanations on the corresponding probabilities are also provided. For example, for an LCF of 1E-5, the explanation is "the probability of developing a cancer is 1 in 100,000." The PEIS has this type of explanation throughout the document whenever LCFs are presented.

30.2. The assessment of uranium miner exposures should include information based on a review of the impacts to workers from the most recent underground uranium mine operations. The PEIS must include data regarding number of workers, number of accidents, number of mine fatalities, citations and penalties associated with exposure to radon and potential for over-exposure to radon (e.g., keeping workers out of high-radon areas and requiring respiration equipment), relationship between experience in underground uranium mines and accidents, exposure to noise, exposure to dust and particulates, exposure to silica and chemicals. The data is there on the Mine Safety and

L48-73

L48-73 Available records on physical hazards associated with underground mining operation as provided in the comment will be reviewed and included in the PEIS. However, speculation on how future uranium mining operations will be conducted, which are governed by existing regulations, is outside the scope of the PEIS. Mitigation measures to reduce the exposure of workers and the general public to noise, dust and particulates, hazardous chemicals and radionuclides, etc. are provided in the PEIS.

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Health Administration (MSHA) Mine Data Retrieval System website.⁹ There is data available regarding the uranium mines that provided ore to the White Mesa Mill, the only operating conventional uranium mill in the United States. The operators of those mines have been Reliances Resources, a contractor to Denison Mines (USA) Corp., the owner/operator of the White Mesa Mill, and Energy Fuels Resources, the company that recently purchased Denison Mines. The uranium mines that operated within the last 8 years and provided ore to the mill include: Pandora Complex, La Sal Complex, Tony M, Rim, Daneros, Sunday, Arizona 1, and Pinenut.

L48-73
(Cont.)

30.3. The DPEIS (page 4-88, lines 25 to 32) makes certain assumptions regarding fatal and non-fatal accidents at uranium mines, based on the data for all mining operations. Since actual data on fatal and non-fatal **uranium** mine accidents is readily available on the MSHA website, the PEIS discussion of worker health must be based on this data, not on unsubstantiated assumptions based on all mine-accident data. The PEIS must include actual information regarding the number of workers and workdays at the Pandora Complex and the totals for all uranium mines associated with fatalities and accidents.

L48-74

L48-74 See response to L48-73.

30.3. There was a mine fatality at the Pandora Complex (ID 4200470) in May 26, 2010.¹⁰ The fatal accident was not the result of a statistical expectation of a fatal mine accident. It was caused by the incompetence of the mine operator; that is, "because management, policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate."¹¹ This was exacerbated by the lack of underground mining experience on the part of the worker, who did not question the procedures and his supervisor's directions regarding the work assignment that led to his fatality. The mine operator has since challenged the monetary penalties associated with the accident and the failure to report the accident in a timely manner.¹² No penalties have been paid by the mine operator thus far. A review of the violations for the Pandora Complex provides extensive information regarding the amount and nature of the penalties. Reliance Resources, the operator of the Pandora Complex, was a contractor to Denison Mines, the previous mine owner. The current Pandora Complex owner, Energy Fuels Resources Inc., employs many of the same people as Denison Mines and has leased some of the DOE ULP properties. Therefore, the PEIS must include a more realistic assessment of the potential for fatal accidents associated with the ULP, should mining operations commence.

L48-75

L48-75 See response to L48-73.

30.4. The PEIS must include information on worker health that reflects some of the realities of uranium mine worker health and safety over the past 10 years. This would

L48-76

L48-76 See response to L48-73.

⁹ <http://www.msha.gov/drs/drshome.htm>

¹⁰ <http://www.msha.gov/FATALS/2010/FTL10m08.asp>

¹¹ <http://www.msha.gov/FATALS/2010/ftl10m08.pdf>

¹² A mine operator is required to report a serious accident within 15 minutes. MSHA learned of the fatal accident via a media report several hours after the accident and the fatality determination. Both the mine owner and the operator were cited and fined for failing to report the accident. Only the mine operator contested the fine.

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include mine accidents and fatalities, the amount of penalties, they nature of the health and safety violations, the nature of the health and safety violations associated with exposure to radon, the nature of the health and safety violations associated with keeping workers out of high radon areas with barriers and warning signs, contested penalties, hazards associated with the reopening of old mine workings where radon has accumulated, and any other aspect of worker health and safety revealed by data and information on uranium mining operations over the past 10 years.

L48-76
(Cont.)

30.5. The PEIS assessment of worker health must also include information regarding the compensation of a miner's family by the mine owner and/or operator, should a fatal accident occur. In the case of the fatal accident at the Pandora Complex, it is my understanding that the family, including a daughter who is a minor, did not receive anything from the mine owner or mine operator. Future uranium mine workers and their families should know that they might not receive any compensation from the responsible party for an accident or fatality caused by the mine owner or operator. They should know they will be on their own, unless they sue the mine owner and/or operator.

L48-77

L48-77 See response to L48-73.

30.6. The PEIS must include consideration of the lack of workers in the ULP area who have experience in underground uranium mines and the relationship between lack of experience and mine accidents.

L48-78

L48-78 Speculation of worker qualifications is outside the scope of the PEIS.

30.7. The PEIS must include information regarding the reliance of mine owners and operators on local emergency responders, who are not trained to do underground mine rescue work. According to MSHA regulations, an underground uranium mine must have a trained mine rescue team available at all times to reach the mine within 2-hours. However, at the Pandora Complex and La Sal Complex, the mine owner and operators relied on local emergency responders during mine accidents and during the 2010 mine fatality. The PEIS must have a full discussion of the use of such local emergency workers and an assessment of the possible misuse of such workers in emergency situations. Examples of misuse of emergency workers include sending untrained workers underground, failure to provide workers with protective clothing and protection against radon exposure, and failure to inform a pregnant emergency workers of the potential to be exposed to radiological hazards.

L48-79

L48-79 A mitigation measure regarding the development of an emergency rescue plan and ensuring the availability of a trained rescue team will be added to the PEIS.

31. DPEIS, Section 4.3.5: Environmental Impacts, Alternative 3, Human Health, pages 4-88 to 4-102.

COMMENT

31.1. The PEIS must include information regarding previous exposures of the public from radon and other radionuclides from the lease tracts. The DOE must collect and make available any of the data and information submitted to the EPA regarding the dose to the nearest residents in compliance with the reporting requirements in 40 C.F.R. Part 61 Subpart B. The DOE must request and make available information regarding the lease

L48-80

L48-80 Available radon data have been used to provide estimates of potential risk to a receptor postulated to be exposed to adits or mine openings (see Section 4.1.5).

In addition, the area that encompass the ULP lease tracts has high background levels of radon due to natural deposition of uranium in soils. Background radon levels, ambient gamma radiation, and radionuclide concentrations in surface water and groundwater are provided in the "Affected Environment" section for comparison with estimated levels of radon and radiation exposures from mining related activities in the lease tracts as presented in the PEIS.

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tract mine operators' compliance with the EPA application and approval process for the ventilation of an underground uranium mine (40 C.F.R. §§ 61.07 and 61.08) and the annual radon dose compliance reports. The annual reports are required for any lease tract mine that has, or will, produce over 100,000 tons of ore.

L48-80
(Cont.)

31.2. The PEIS must include information regarding the monitoring, or lack of monitoring, and regulation of radionuclide releases from the soils, waste rock, and other surface facilities at the mine sites. This would include monitoring for off-site dispersal of radionuclides. It would also include the emission and dispersion of radionuclides from lease tracts since the inception of the ULP.

L48-81

L48-81 Mitigation measures which include monitoring of radon emitted from uranium mines are provided in the PEIS. The monitoring data can be used to more realistically evaluate the dispersal of radon to offsite locations and the exposures of the public in order to demonstrate compliance with the dose limit of 10 mrem/yr promulgated by the EPA.

31.3. The PEIS must include a complete assessment of current surface and subsurface radiological contamination at existing lease tracts, including areas that have already been "reclaimed" and areas that will be disturbed by future mining activities. Data must be provided in the form of dose rate in millirems per year (mrem/yr), so that it can be compared to the dose standard for radon exposure. Any dose measured in micro rems per hour (μ rem/hr) should be translated into mrem/yr.¹³

L48-82

L48-82 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS. Reclamation at the ULP lease must comply with the lease agreements and state requirements (i.e., CDRMS requirements for reclamation).

31.4. The PEIS must provide information regarding the average dose rate from the Disturbed Area, the maximum dose rate for the Mine Site Disturbed Area, Survey Boundary, and Entire Survey Data Set and the source of the highest dose rate. This must be compared with both the EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) radiation dose standards associated with the exposure of members of the public to radionuclides from uranium industry operations. The EPA standard for the dose to the nearest resident from the release of radon from underground uranium mines is 10 mrem/yr; the NRC Radiation Dose Limit to Individual Members of the Public is 100 mrem/yr.¹⁴

L48-83

L48-83 Dose rates cannot be compared with the dose limit directly. The PEIS considers different receptors with exposure patterns thought to represent those of the general public and calculates the radiation doses the receptors would incur; the radiation doses then were compared with the dose limit. The calculated radiation doses and the comparison are provided in the PEIS.

31.5. Surface and subsurface contamination must also be shown in pico Curies per gram (pCi/gm) of radium 226 and compared to existing EPA standards for the cleanup of radium and uranium at uranium mills and uranium mines. The EPA standard for the cleanup of contaminated soils at uranium mill sites is 5 pCi/g of radium 226, averaged over the first 15 centimeters (cm) below the surface, and 15 pCi/g radium 226, averaged for layers more than 15 cm below the surface.¹⁵ The 5 pCi/g is a health-based standard. Recently, the EPA establish an action level for the cleanup of the North East Church Rock Uranium Mine of 2.24 pCi/g radium 226.¹⁶ The DOE must identify and take into consideration all EPA site-specific action levels for the cleanup of uranium mines and any statements by the EPA regarding the minimum cleanup levels applicable to uranium mining operations.

L48-84

L48-84 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

¹³ Multiply μ rem/hr by 8.766 to get mrem/yr.

¹⁴ 10 C.F.R. § 20.1301.

¹⁵ 40 C.F.R. §192.32(b)(2)(i and ii)

¹⁶ <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/r9sfdocw.nsf/ViewByEPAID/NNN000906132>

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31.6. The DOE must establish health-based radiation standards for the cleanup of radioactive contamination at the ULP sites. The DOE must also consider a cleanup level that is equal to background, prior to any lease tract mining activities.

L48-85

L48-85 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

31.7. Table 4.3-3 Radon Emission Rates per Type of Mine during Mine Operations Assumed for Alternative 3 (page 4-93) is based on estimates from decades-old EPA studies. There is recent data available to the DOE regarding the relationship between the size of the mine, years of operation, ore production, and rate of radon emissions per mine. This information is available in the Annual Subpart B Compliance Reports submitted to the State of Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) and the EPA Region 8 for the La Sal Mines Complex (Pandora, La Sal, Beaver Shaft, and Snowball), Rim, Tony M, and Daneros Mines in Utah. These reports are available from the DAQ via a government records act request. Ore production data for these mines is found in a recent Energy Fuels Resources Report.¹⁷ Additionally, the ULP uranium mining operations that had produced, or were expected to produce over 100,000 tons of ore were also required to submit Annual Subpart B Compliance Reports to the EPA Region 8 office for operations after 1989. There a number of lease tract mining operations that fall within that category. The DOE is obligated use the most current and relevant data related to the radon emission rates. The DOE must use all available radon emission data from the lease tracts and determine whether operations that were required to submit Annual Subpart B Compliance Reports to the EPA actually did so.

L48-86

L48-86 See response to L48-80.

31.8. The PEIS must acknowledge that there is no EPA regulation that requires the measurement of radon emissions from open pit uranium mines and from mines that are not expected to produce over 100,000 tons of ore. Therefore, there will be no way to verify any of the information or data regarding radon emissions and doses, including cumulative emissions and doses from all mining operations in a specific area. The total dose to a receptor from a combination of uranium mine operations would be unknown, if any of the mines are not subject to the Subpart B standard and reporting requirements. Therefore, if a receptor is near a mine that is not subject to the Subpart B standard, it will be impossible to ascertain whether or not the 10 mrem dose standard is being exceeded. There will be no legal basis for using any of the mitigative measures described in the DPEIS (page 4-96). Yet, the DPEIS fails to acknowledge this reality, and is misstating the facts through the omission of pertinent information. This must be corrected in the PEIS.

L48-87

L48-87 DOE has included mitigation measures (that are not compliance measures) precisely to provide additional protection where there might not be a regulatory basis. The mitigation measures included in Table 4.6-1 include measures to provide protection from potential radon emissions. Mitigation measures are currently included in the lease agreements and mitigation measures identified in the PEIS would be added to the leases, when leases are modified.

31.9. Table 4.3-4, Potential Maximum Radon Levels, Radiation Doses, Radon Concentrations, and LCF Risks to a Resident Associated with the Emission of Radon from Four Uranium Mine Sizes under Alternative 3 (page 4-94), shows that the radiation dose to the nearest receptor for large mines would be above the 10 mrem/yr standard for receptors up to 2,000 meters from the mines, based on the DOE's estimations. Under

L48-88

L48-88 The results presented in the PEIS show that there is potential that operations of a uranium mine without taking any mitigation measure could exceed radon emission standards. However, the likelihood of actual operations exceeding the emission standards cannot be assessed without actual measurement data of radon emission rates. Based on the conservatism and uncertainty associated with the PEIS results, the suggested statements for inclusion in the PEIS may not be appropriate.

¹⁷ 2012 Annual Information Form, Energy Fuels Inc., December 20, 2012.
http://www.uraniumwatch.org/energyfuels/EF_CSA_2012AnnualInfo.121221.pdf

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EPA regulation, a mine could emit radon over the limit for over a year before the exceedance was revealed in an annual Subpart B compliance report and mitigative measures undertaken. The PEIS must acknowledge that it is likely that large mines with nearby receptors will operate in violation of radon emission standards. The PEIS must also acknowledge that reopening of existing underground workings will result in a spike in radon emissions as accumulated radon is exhausted from the mine workings.

L48-88
(Cont.)

31.10. Table 4.3-4 (page 4-94) does not state that there is currently no federal requirement for the monitoring of radon from the smaller mining operations and any open-pit mine, no matter how large. Therefore, there will be no way to verify the emissions rates for these mines as shown in Table 4.3-4. The PEIS must acknowledge this fact. Data on potential maximum radon levels, doses, risks, and concentrations must also include any historic data regarding the emission of radon from the ULP mines that were subject to the Subpart B standard, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

L48-89

L48-89 A footnote has been added to Table 4.3-4 to acknowledge that there is no Federal requirement for monitoring small mines (those not falling within the requirements of the Subpart B standard).

31.11. The DOE estimations of uranium mining operations during peak operating years (or any other mining operation scenario) has no factual basis. The mine operation estimations do not reflect the recent history of uranium mining operations. If the only operating uranium mill is the White Mesa Mill and if the owners of the White Mesa Mill are producing ore from their own mines and continue to do so, there is little room for uranium ore production at tracts leased to other mining companies.

L48-90

L48-90 The evaluation discussed in the PEIS assumed the White Mesa and Pinon Ridge Mills to be operational and evaluated peak year scenarios to account for a conservative scenario so that potential impacts can be determined. This is the primary purpose of the PEIS evaluations - to provide the information on potential impacts to support identification of DOE's preferred alternative and as input for future site-specific mining activities.

31.12. The DPEIS (page 4-96) lists various measures that could be used to assure compliance with the NESHAP dose limit of 10 mrem/yr. The DPEIS neglects to mention that the DOE has no authority over the radon emission levels from the underground workings and no authority to order or enforce any of the proposed mitigative measures. The EPA has authority for the enforcement of the underground uranium mine NESHAP. The PEIS must be clear about the agency that administers and enforces the radioactive NESHAP for Colorado.

L48-91

L48-91 Text has been revised to indicate that the EPA is the oversight authority for NESHAP compliance (see Section 4.3.5).

31.13. The DPEIS (page 4-96) lists supposed "mandatory" measures for obtaining actual radon emission rates, including monitoring "the radon discharge concentration continuously whenever the mine ventilation system is operational." The DPEIS fails to reference the regulations that would mandate such measures, or the agency that would administer and enforce such requirements. Here, the DOE fails to define "operational."

L48-92

L48-92 The existing leases require DOE approval prior to resuming operations per article Appendix C.1.a which will require any new mitigation measures to be included in those plans.

31.14. The EPA has the authority over the radon emissions for mines subject to the 40 C.F.R. Part 61 Subpart B standard. Subpart B already requires the continuous monitoring of any mines subject to that standard. Monitoring is required whether or not the mine is "operational," as long as the vents are open. Radon is emitted from the underground workings whether or not active mining is going on and whether or not ventilation fans are in operation, as long as the mine is subject to the standard and radon is being emitted. However, for mines that are not subject to the standard (i.e., open-pit mines and mines producing 100,000 tons of ore or less), there is currently no EPA requirement to measure the radon emission rates or calculate the dose to the nearest receptor. So, the dose to a

L48-93

L48-93 The mitigation measures in the PEIS are measures that can be adopted to reduce potential exposures of workers and the public. They are not discussions on regulatory requirements, even though they may be similar to existing ones.

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receptors in the vicinity of a mine that is not subject to the Subpart B standard and monitoring requirements will remain unknown. This should be made perfectly clear in the PEIS.

L48-93
(Cont.)

31.15. It would be possible for the DOE to require monitoring of radon discharge from all ULP mines and require the calculation of the dose to the nearest receptors. The PEIS must discuss the type of radon monitoring that would be required at ULP mines that are not subject to the EPA radioactive NESHAPS standard.

L48-94

L48-94 The mitigation measures in the PEIS are measures that can be adopted to reduce potential exposures of workers and the public. They are not discussions on regulatory requirements, even though they may be similar to existing ones.

31.16. It is important for the DOE and the public to know how much ore has historically been produced at all of the lease tract mines, because historic ore production counts when determining whether a mine is subject to the Subpart B standard.

L48-95

L48-95 This information has been included in Section 1.3.

31.17. The DPEIS (page 4-96) lists supposed "mandatory" measures for obtaining actual radon emission rates, including calculating and recording "a weekly radon-222 emission rate for the mine." The DPEIS fails to reference the regulations that would mandate such measures, or the agency that would administer and enforce such requirements. Currently, the EPA and the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) do not require the calculation and recording of weekly radon-222 emissions. This done on a monthly basis. If a mine that is subject to the Subpart B standard exceeds the standard, the mine owner is required submit monthly, not weekly, monitoring results.

L48-96

L48-96 See response to L48-94.

31.18. The DPEIS (page 4-96) lists supposed "mandatory" measures "for reducing impacts to the general public." The DPEIS fails to reference the regulations that would mandate such measures, or the agency that would administer and enforce such requirements. The DPEIS fails to discuss the fact that both the EPA and MSHA have authority over the mine ventilation system. The ventilation system is operated for the purpose of reducing the radon dose to the underground workers. MSHA has authority over this aspect of the system.

L48-97

L48-97 See response to L48-94.

31.19. The DPEIS does not say how the various measure would reduce the impact to the general public. In fact, it is not the general public that will be considered; it is specific receptor points in the vicinity of the mines. Measures such as rerouting the ventilation flow might not be feasible if it means increased worker exposure. Modifications to the vent stack, once ventilation borehole has been drilled and the vent is installed, would be infeasible. Vent stacks, referred to as "risers," are heavy, metal structures, some of which also house a ventilation fan. New vent stack height and diameter would be determined at the time of installation, and the mines would also rely on previously installed boreholes and risers. It would be possible to decrease the diameter and/or increase the height of the stack, but not likely.

L48-98

L48-98 The measures included in Table 4.6-1 in the M11 category do describe the specifics and the intended protection provided by the measures.

31.20. The DOE must require the use of bulkheads whenever feasible to close off previously mines areas as a condition of the lease agreement.

L48-99

L48-99 DOE will assure protection to human health consistent with regulations and evaluate the use of bulkheads to close off mine areas , as needed in coordination with CDRMS.

31.21. The DOE must require off-site monitoring to provide actual verification of the amount of radon and other radionuclides emissions impacting nearby receptors and the

L48-100

L48-100 DOE will consider the need for monitoring beyond what is required in M-11 Table 4.6-1 on a case-by-case basis in coordination with CDRMS.

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general public within a 50-mile radius. Right now, exposure to a member the public from a uranium mine is by-guess-and-by-golly, no matter how far they are from a lease tract mine.

L48-100
(Cont.)

31.22. The DPEIS makes a lot of assumptions regarding the health impacts to the public, but there is no mention of any need to collect data on the current health of nearby residents or the surrounding communities to be able to establish baseline conditions. Nor, is there any mention of long-term studies of community health during since the inception of the ULP or of plans for future health studies. Therefore, there is no basis for, and will continue to be no basis for, any of the DOE’s assumptions regarding the impacts to public health from the ULP.

L48-101

L48-101 The human health analysis in the PEIS is based on site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary) and is sufficient for decisions regarding the five alternatives in the range of reasonable alternatives presented in the PEIS.

31.23. The DPEIS only includes risks associated with cancer, rather than fully discussing all potential health impacts from exposure to radiological and non-radiological contaminants from the ULP mining operation, including cumulative impacts. The PEIS must address all health impacts and health risks, not just those associated with cancer.

L48-102

L48-102 While there are other health effects associated with radiation exposures, cancer risks are determined to be the limiting risks for the general population and could be used as the sole basis for assessing human health effects from environmental radiation exposures (EPA 1989). The PEIS follows the EPA guidance for assessing human health risks from radiation exposures.

31.24. The DPEIS fails to provide any information regarding a radionuclide cleanup standard for contaminated rock, soils, and sediments. It fails to provide information regarding limits on the release of radon from the waste-rock piles during and after reclamation. It fails to provide information regarding long-term monitoring and maintenance of the reclaimed sites. In sum, there is no information about the control of radiation and non-radioactive contamination over the long term. The PEIS must include that information.

L48-103

Potential human health risks considering the chemical effects of uranium and vanadium are also estimated in the PEIS (see Section 4.1.5). Per EPA guidance, for exposure levels less than the EPA hazard index of 1, adverse health effects are not expected, which is the case found for the general public in the evaluations done for this PEIS (see Section 4.1.5.5 and 4.3.5.4).

31.25. The PEIS must include a full accounting of previous radon emissions and doses, based on data and information provided to the EPA in compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 61 Subpart B. The PEIS must include a full accounting of how mines that have been subject to Subpart B have complied with the application, approval, monitoring, and reporting requirements in the past.

L48-104

L48-103 When mines are closed, the cleanup will be performed according to the appropriate requirements. Potential radon releases would be minimized and would be protective once a site is successfully revegetated (typically three to five years)

31.26. The PEIS must examine the risks associated with radioactive particulates that are lodged in the lungs where they will emit radiation to the lungs and other parts of a body indefinitely. The PEIS must take into consideration any new scientific studies and reports related to the damage caused by radioactive particles that are lodged in a person’s body for various durations, including permanently.

L48-105

L48-104 See response to L48-86.

L48-105 Radiation doses/risks associated with inhalation of radionuclides are included in the dose/risk results presented in the PEIS. The inhalation doses/risks concern the total exposures of human body to radiation within 30 years after the intake of radionuclides. The retention and excretion of radionuclides, along with their daughter products generated after the intake, inside the human body are considered based on their physiological data; while radionuclides are inside the human body, the radiation they emit and absorbed by different organs are counted toward the inhalation doses/risks. The inhalation doses/risks are estimated using the most updated dose conversion factors/slope factors available at present.

31.27. The DPEIS assessment of health impacts is full of statements, opinions, and data with few accompanying citations to scientific literature. There is no way for the public to verify any of the statements and data. The PEIS assessment of health impacts must include citations to specific scientific literature, including the specific pages and paragraphs.

L48-106

L48-106 The methodology and dose/risk coefficients employed by the PEIS for human health impact analyses are also used by the risk assessment community and the regulatory agencies such as EPA and NRC. Discussions on potential human health effects and data supporting the effects are available in the documents referenced by the PEIS for the dose/risk coefficients.

31.28. The assessment of General Public Exposures – Recreationist Scenario at Section 4.3.5.4 (page 4-100 to 4-101) does not mention that there is currently no requirement for warning signs near operating radon vents, waste rock piles, contaminated soils and

L48-107

L48-107 DOE leases require the lessees to maintain their operations in a safe and secure manner, which could include fencing as necessary (see Appendix A, item X. Security and Safety).

The radiation exposures of recreationists would be greatly reduced with implementation of mitigation measures (e.g., providing a protective cover layer of sufficient thickness to waste rock piles).

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sediments, and other potentially hazardous areas of the ULP lease tracts. Therefore, people engaged in recreational activities might not be aware that they are on or near areas where they might be exposed to radon, radioactive particulates, or other hazardous materials and hazardous conditions associated with ULP sites. The DOE must require fencing and warning signs at radon ventilation boreholes, waste rock piles, reclaimed areas, contaminated areas, and any other areas that present a health and safety hazard at any of the ULP lease tracts.

L48-107
(Cont.)

32. DPEIS, Section 4.3.6, Environmental Impacts, Alternative 3, Ecological Resources, page 4-102 to 4-147.

COMMENT

32.1. The DPEIS fails to include a full assessment of past impacts to Ecological Resources and a full assessment of the current, unremediated impacts. The PEIS must include a full assessment of all historic impacts, the extent of remediation, the effectiveness of remediation efforts (particularly with respect to revegetation), and the impacts caused by the extensive delay in reclamation due to the ULP's failure to require ongoing remedial actions at each of the lease tracts. The PEIS must contain a full assessment of the impacts to Ecological Resources caused by the continued delay in remediation via the proposed indefinite extension of the ULP.

L48-108

L48-108 See response to L48-35.

32.2. The PEIS must include an assessment of past recovery of plant communities in the lease tract areas that have been impacted. The PEIS must substantiate statements such as, "Plant communities would be expected to fully recover from impacts of underground mines, and impacts would be minor." Page 4-102, lines 29 to 30.

L48-109

L48-109 Existing conditions on the lease tracts, which result, in part, from past impacts, are described in the Affected Environment, Section 3.6.1, and in Section 4.1.6.1. Details regarding conditions at individual mine sites and lease tracts, including reclamation, can be found in S.M. Stoller Corporation, 2012, referenced in the DPEIS and available on the ULP PEIS web site. Conclusion statements, such as that noted from page 4-103, are generally supported by information in the preceding paragraphs describing the impacts and appropriate mitigation. The degree of recovery of plant communities is based on the degree and type of the impacting factor. The impact level (e.g., minor, moderate) is based on several factors, as described in Table 2.4-1. The statement noted applies only to the indirect impact of fugitive dust. Text has been added to clarify.

32.3. The PEIS must justify its conclusion that "streams located within lease tracts, such as the Dolores River (Lease Tracts 13 and 13A) or Atkinson Creek (Lease Tract 18), would not likely be directly affected because mines would be required to be located at a distance from these streams (e.g., 1,300 ft [0.25 mi] from the Dolores River)." Page 4-104, lines 31 to 38. The PEIS must explain why a .25 mile distance from these water ways is adequate to protect the Dolores River and Atkinson Creek. The PEIS must include all data on the actual distance from the Dolores River from the edge of existing surface impacts of Lease Tracts 13 and 13A, the historic impacts to the Dolores River from Lease Tracts 13 and 13A, the current impacts to the Dolores River from Lease Tracts 13 and 13A, the history of erosion and materials from Lease Tracts 13 and 13A migrating offsite, and all other impacts to the Dolores River from Lease Tracts 13 and 13A. This would include the history of inspections, violations, mitigative measures, success of mitigative measures associated with the offsite migration of materials from Lease Tracts 13 and 13A.

L48-110

L48-110 As noted in the statement referenced, the quarter-mile distance explains why the Dolores River would not likely be *directly* affected (i.e., ground-disturbing activities related to mine development). Indirect impacts (such as from erosion and sedimentation) could potentially occur, and are discussed in the succeeding sentences and paragraphs.

32.3. The DPEIS provides a long description of potential impacts to groundwater, then concludes that "impacts on groundwater flows would be small and would result in minor

L48-111

L48-111 Text has been added to refer the reader to Section 4.3.4 (Water Resources), which includes a discussion of impacts to groundwater flow and concludes that impacts would be minimal. Historical impacts to groundwater are also discussed in that section.

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impacts on downgradient habitats, which would be expected to fully recover." Page 4-105, lines 32 to 33. The DPEIS provides no basis for this conclusion. The DPEIS provides no information regarding the historic and current impacts to groundwater flows and downgradient habitats. The DPEIS completely disregards the cumulative impacts from individual lease tract mining operations. These omissions must be corrected in the final PEIS. The PEIS must look at the sum of all the previous, current, and potential impacts, including impacts caused by extensive delays in reclamation and mitigative measures.

L48-111
(Cont.)

32.4. The PEIS must include a full description and evaluation of all of the mitigative measures that have been imposed on the mining operations since the inception of the ULP. The PEIS must include an assessment of the mitigative measures that have been undertaken and their effectiveness.

L48-112

L48-112 Section 4.6 of the PEIS lists measures to minimize potential impacts from ULP mining. The evaluation of potential impacts to various resources discussed in Chapter 4 of the PEIS describes the applicability of these measures for mitigating potential impacts for a given environmental resource area or for human health.

32.5. Section 4.3.6.2.2, Wildlife Disturbance (page 4-108 to 4-110) includes an assessment of potential disturbances caused by noise. This section should also include an assessment of the disturbances caused by the continual high levels of noise caused by the operation of the fans in the mine vent stacks. This would include impacts to nesting, feeding, breeding, rearing of young, and other animal behaviors that are impacted by exposure to constant noise from an unnatural source.

L48-113

L48-113 Information on noise levels from fans in the mine vent stacks will be added to the PEIS. As appropriate, potential noise impacts to wildlife from the fans will be discussed in Section 4.3.6.2.2.

32.6. The PEIS must include information regarding how impacts to wildlife has been monitored and will be monitored in the area of the ULP.

L48-114

L48-114 There is currently no active wildlife monitoring of the inactive or abandoned mines in the ULP area. The Environmental Protection Plans (EPPs) prepared for mines under the proposed ULP will require monitoring of ecological resources. The monitoring program will be developed with input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Additional ecological monitoring and mitigation would be required as part of lease and permit requirements for mine sites.

33. DPEIS, Section 4.4, Alternative 4, page 4-185 to 4-226.

COMMENT

L48-115

See comments for Alternative 3, which are also applicable to Alternative 4.

L48-115 See responses to L48-51 to L48-114.

34. DPEIS, Section 4.5, Alternative 5, page 4-226 - 4-251.

COMMENT

L48-116

See comments for Alternative 3, which are also applicable to Alternative 5.

L48-116 See responses to L48-51 to L48-114.

35. DPEIS, Section 4.6, Measures to Minimize Potential Impacts from the ULP Mining Activities, page 4-251 to 4-265.

COMMENT

35.1. Section 4.6. states: *These measures apply to the three phases of the proposed action (exploration, mine development and operations, and reclamation), as applicable.* Page 251, lines 35 to 37. The DPEIS blatantly ignores the longest phase of the proposed action, that of non-operation, where permitted mines sit for years with no active mining

L48-117

L48-117 Reclamation is required by Federal and state law and by provisions of the lease. State law requires lease holders to reclaim within five years of inactivity. The state has the authority to extend this time period for an additional five years.

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activities. The PEIS must provide a full description of the measures that will be required for periods of short-term cessation of mining activities (less than one year) and long-term periods of non-operation in order to maintain the lease tracts in a safe and secure condition. The measures must address all health, safety, and environmental issues in order to prevent site degradation and adverse environmental impacts. The DOE must require yearly inspections and have a schedule for review of the non-operational status so that mines cannot be left for years in a non-operational status without reclamation. The PEIS must also address the current operational status of the existing leases and proposed measures to address all health, safety, and environmental issues.

L48-117
(Cont.)

35.2. Mitigative measures during periods of non-operation must include radiological warning signs on the mine openings and any uncovered mine vents.

L48-118

L48-118 The leases already stipulate the recommended mitigation measure. The following text is excerpted from the leases: "Article X: SECURITY AND SAFETY. The Lessee shall secure and post all areas that might reasonably be considered hazardous to the general public, including, but not limited to ore stockpile areas, loading areas, mining openings, and mine-rock waste piles, in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations and specific requirements and stipulations set forth in Appendix "C." If necessary, the Lessee agrees to construct fences or other barriers around the perimeter of safety-hazard areas to minimize the potential for intrusion by humans, livestock, and wildlife. Radioactive materials exposed by the Lessee's operation shall be managed to ensure that the exposure of humans and ecosystems is as low as reasonably achievable."

35.3. Section 4.6 must also indicate which measures have been applied to the lease tracts historically and assess their effectiveness.

L48-119

35.4. Section 4.6 must indicate which measures are currently being implemented at the lease tracts. The PEIS must contain a full discussion of how the current lease tract facilities and operations have or have not met the proposed measures listed in Section 4.6. The public needs to know now how unreclaimed surface and subsurface operations meet, or do not meet, the proposed regulations, measures, and BMPs laid out in Section 4.6.

L48-120

35.5. The PEIS must identify mitigative measures that must be undertaken now to protect the environment and mitigate the impacts that are caused by the current site conditions.

L48-121

L48-119 The PEIS has been revised to add discussion as to which mitigation measures listed in Table 4.6-1 are applicable to minimize potential impacts to a given resource.

35.6. Section 4.6 lists various best Management Practices (BMPs), but does not state who will make sure these practices are implemented. There is no information regarding inspections or enforcement of the BMPs. This information must be included in the PEIS.

L48-122

L48-120 Current site conditions are being maintained and are in compliance with Federal, state, and local regulatory requirements assuring protection of human health and the environment.

36. DPEIS, Section 4.7, Cumulative Impacts, page 4-265 to 4-326.

36.1. Section 4.7 fails to include the cumulative impacts from the ULP and other uranium mining activities in the ULP area from the time uranium mining commenced. The DPEIS fails to fully characterize and assess the full range of cumulative impacts from the uranium mining activities associated with the ULP. The DPEIS goes out of its way to minimize historic and current, ongoing impacts. This must be corrected in the PEIS.

L48-123

L48-121 Current site conditions are being maintained and are in compliance with Federal, state, and local regulatory requirements assuring protection of human health and the environment.

L48-122 Text has been revised to clarify that mitigation measures and BMPs, as appropriate, would be implemented by the lessees per lease agreement and permit requirements.

36.2. The information in Section 4.7.2.1.1 regarding the Daneros Mine (page 280) is out of date. The mine has suspended operation. The mine owner has submitted a plan of operations for a large mining operation, which would greatly expand the surface impacts of the mine. The PEIS must contain current information regarding the status of the Daneros Mine.

L48-124

L48-123 The Draft PEIS addressed historic and current impacts through the discussion of the affected environment presented in Section 3 for the various resource areas evaluated with no intent to minimize such information. Section 3 presents all relevant information considered to provide the basis for gauging potential impacts from the proposed alternatives discussed in Section 4.

L48-124 This section has been revised to update the information regarding the Daneros mine.

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36.3. The information in Section 4.7.2.1.2 regarding the La Sal Mines Complex (page 280) is out of date. The Complex is not in operation.

L48-125

L48-125 This section has been revised to update the information.

36.4. Table 4.7-7 contains a long list of reclamation work that has been done at the various lease tracts. However, there is no information regarding how long the safety hazards and environmental degradation conditions continued prior to the reclamation work. There is no information regarding who was responsible for maintaining the sites in a safe and environmentally sound condition, who undertook the reclamation work, when it was undertaken, who paid for the work, and other particulars about these reclamation activities. The history of how well the DOE and the ULP lessees maintained these sites in the past must be part of the PEIS.

L48-126

L48-126 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. And any environmental issues associated with the legacy sites should have been addressed with the reclamation work completed. Site-specific information including reclamation work done is summarized in Section 1.3 of the PEIS.

There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

36.5. The PEIS must assess the long-term stability and effectiveness of the reclamation work described in Table 4.7-7.

L48-127

L48-127 All legacy mines under the oversight of DOE has been reclaimed and as such are expected to be protective to human health and the environment.

36.5. The long-term impacts from previously reclaimed areas must be included in the PEIS.

L48-128

36.6. The comparison of the cumulative impacts related to the Acoustic environment (page 4-307) fails to include any assessment of the potential impacts from the operation of mine ventilation fans that operate at the top of the surface risers. The PEIS must include an assessment of the noise levels from these fans, impacts, and mitigative measures.

L48-129

L48-128 See response to L48-127.

L48-129 Potential impacts of ventilation fans operation on nearby sensitive receptors will be included in the Final PEIS.

37. CONCLUSION

37.1. In sum, there are gaping holes in the DPEIS that must be addressed in the final PEIS. The DOE has no rational basis for the continued degradation of the lease tract areas and the continual delays in the cleanup and remediation of these lands.

L48-130

L48-130 See response to L48-127.

L48-131 The stated purpose and need for agency action in Section 1.4: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States. 42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097. Those two AEA provisions are consistent with the need of assuring a supply of domestic uranium, from an active program of issuing leases or permits for exploring, mining, and removing deposits of uranium ore.

37.2. The DOE should not rely on an outdated, unneeded federal program to supply uranium to the commercial nuclear power industry.

L48-131

37.3. The DOE should end the ULP program, reclaim all impacted areas, and maintain the sites under a long-term care program.

L48-132

L48-132 Comment noted. DOE's preferred alternative is Alternative 4 after careful consideration of public comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the evaluation discussed in this PEIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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and

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An Alliance for Community Action

July 1, 2013

Mr. Ray Plieness
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RE: ULP Draft PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Western Colorado Congress (WCC) appreciates the chance to reiterate our thoughts and concerns related to the prospect of increased uranium mining in our region and our desire to move western Colorado toward sustainable, healthy communities and landscapes.

WCC and its hundreds of members in Montrose, Mesa, San Miguel and Garfield counties have a long history with uranium and its impacts. We have learned the hard way that uranium mining and milling brings real costs to the environment and people. There are hundreds of abandoned mines throughout our region, leaving behind piles of radioactive tailings. Reclamation efforts have yet to be successfully demonstrated with previous DOE-leased mines. The ULP covers 25,000 acres across of land across our communities and will undoubtedly have regional impacts on our economies, environment and peoples. Given this context, it is crucial that any further uranium development should be done only in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare, if at all.

Upon review of the ULP PEIS, we appreciate the Agency's response to scoping requests that it work with cooperating agencies to thoroughly evaluate the wide-range of impacts uranium mining would have on wildlife, cultural resources, public lands, etc. We also appreciate the intentions expressed in Alternative 1, which focuses on reclamation and cancels the leasing program within the 10 year timeframe.

However, the range of alternatives did not analyze an alternative that would permanently reduce the number of leases or include possibilities for renewable energy development. We also have concerns regarding the breadth of analysis within the PEIS overall. Throughout the document, there is a lack of localized, in-depth information upon which to evaluate the impacts of future mining. The cumulative impacts analysis is superficial as it is limited to a 50-mile "buffer zone"

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- L49-1 DOE believes that its preferred alternative would be protective of the environment and public health based on the past mining activities already conducted at the lease tracts and the results of the evaluation discussed in the PEIS for Alternative 4.
L49-2 Comment noted. DOE appreciates the participation of the cooperating agencies on the ULP PEIS.
L49-3 DOE considers the range of reasonable alternatives presented in the PEIS to be sufficient in meeting the purpose and need described in Section 1.4.

The projections or assumptions for future uranium mining activities at the ULP lease tracts presented in the PEIS are based on site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information), in addition to historical mine development and operations on the lease tracts. The assumptions are made as realistically as possible but also provide a conservative basis for analyzing upper bound potential impacts from which decisions can be made. Future mining conditions or scenarios can be compared with the assumptions made in this PEIS to gauge potential impacts to human health and the various environmental resources. Whether or not the scenario described in the PEIS is exactly what happens in the future relative to mining at the ULP lease tracts, the science behind that evaluation for that future scenario remains the same as what was done for the PEIS. That is, the actual number of mines, sizes, and specific location might vary, but the specific level of potential impacts for the particular future scenario can be extrapolated from the results discussed in the PEIS.

The cumulative analysis is based on a 50-mile radius based on the region of influence covered by the human health and environmental justice resource areas. The geographic extent of cumulative impacts is less for the remainder of the resource areas for air emissions. It has been shown from experience and proven by the analysis done for the ULP PEIS that areas farther away would not be expected to be impacted by the activities on the ULP lease tracts for the various resource areas evaluated in the PEIS.

While current science does not enable reliable analysis of specific climate impacts on a specific region, potential hotter and drier conditions attributable to future climate change would not be expected to affect ULP activities, which would occur in the next few decades.

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surrounding the lease tracts, ignoring impacts on the region as a whole, while at the same time it does not investigate site specific impacts to communities. We also question the PEIS's analysis of the long-term and far reaching impacts of past, present and possible future uranium development in our region as a whole. For example, although the cumulative impact study states that it took abandoned mines into consideration, the remediation claims in the PEIS are based on outdated information as opposed to actual field analysis. The PEIS also fails to analyze these impacts, especially effects on water supply, within the context of changing climate conditions.

L49-3
(Cont.)

The PEIS states that potential impacts across the five alternatives are "negligible to moderate." However, under the DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during the peak of operations, a drastic increase in current uranium activity. Western Colorado continues to bear the impacts of past mining that has left behind a legacy of toxic waste and radioactive contamination that is still being remediated by taxpayer monies. There are over 1,200 abandoned uranium mines in Colorado alone; some of these sites are in violation of the Clean Water Act and continue to threaten the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers as well as the larger Colorado River Basin. The fact that we are still dealing with these real and lasting impacts of mining activity from the past 50 years fails to inspire confidence that the inevitable impacts of any proposed new mining will be adequately mitigated and remediated.

L49-4

L49-4

The projections or assumptions for future uranium mining activities at the ULP lease tracts presented in the PEIS are based on site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information) in addition to historical mine development and operations on the lease tracts. DOE has evaluated the potential future impacts based on the present laws, standards and practices of the uranium mining industry which is the basis of our determination for the PEIS.

Thus, in any alternative, the DOE should physically investigate, identify, and evaluate the conditions of existing mines and lease tracts before proposing new mines. The DOE should also prioritize the creation of a transparent process that leads to a uniform and modern standard of reclamation that restores soils, water and physical properties to their original conditions.

WCC is particularly concerned with the conclusions reached regarding cumulative socio-economic impacts. The PEIS does not have a comprehensive study of impacts to our region's long-term economic development. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best alternative possible, it should also address bonding, royalty rates, and uranium market conditions. The economic risks of uranium are just too high to ignore.

L49-5

L49-5

The determination of whether additional mines are implemented on the lease tracts if Alternative 3, 4 or 5 is selected will be based on economic decisions of the lease holders. The leases require reclamation bonds as well as requirements to protect the public and the environment consistent with laws, regulations and mitigation measures.

Throughout its history, uranium has been a boom and bust industry, tying communities to a volatile and speculative global market. Prices fluctuate dramatically and jobs disappear. Across the Uravan Mineral District, uranium companies have gone bankrupt, leaving billions in remediation costs to taxpayers. Furthermore, as shown in in the 2009 Sonoran Institute Study "Uranium Mining, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation in Gateway, Colorado," tying up public lands for uranium development prevents alternative, sustainable forms of investment from coming into the region. Western Colorado's future depends on clean jobs and sustainable economic development that supports our local communities into the future, building on industries such as agriculture, recreation, and tourism while developing our potential as a renewable energy producer.

L49-6

L49-6

DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In any case, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no disproportionately high and adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur

Western Colorado Congress, Commenter ID No. L49 (Cont.)

corporations seeking international buyers on the open market. This inherently leads to economically vulnerable communities suffering a disproportionate share of adverse environmental effects while industry profits.

Building upon these concerns, WCC encourages the DOE to offer a "Clean Alternative" that prioritizes contributing to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing our region's potential as a renewable energy producer rather than initiating new mines. Reclamation itself has the potential to be a long-term employer on the Western Slope. Uranium cleanup efforts not only restore our public lands but also creates jobs locally in our rural communities where they are needed most.

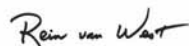
Also, the uranium market today is oversupplied and there is little room for the US to compete. The PEIS itself states that these lease tracts would have little impact on the nuclear fuel cycle, confirming that these deposits have a lower quality of uranium ore and are comparatively small. So rather than enabling development of US uranium and allowing collateral damage to its landscapes for diminishing benefits, the DOE should reserve this resource in the ground, where it is safe and stable.

Finally, this region of Colorado has been recognized for its solar energy potential. A recent Gallup poll in March of this year shows that Americans want a stronger emphasis placed on domestic renewable energy development, and the recent 2013 Conservation in the West poll shows the majority of Coloradoans strongly favor solar energy (56%) over nuclear (10%). A Clean Alternative could encourage the renewal of uranium brownfields by developing renewable energy projects on already disturbed sites, furthering Colorado's commitment to a 20% renewable energy standard and the creation of a proposed 600,000 clean energy jobs.

In conclusion, members of WCC have experienced the real-time and long-term impacts of uranium mining and milling in our communities. We persist in asking that any potential uranium development of any kind should happen to the highest standards to protect our present and future environment and public safety. Given this, we find the current PEIS to be lacking in its analysis and conclusions and thus cannot support any of the proposed alternatives as they do not address our full range of concerns. However, with more localized information available, we believe that the PEIS can be an opportunity for the Agency to offer a clean, sustainable alternative that would greatly benefit our Western Slope communities. We look forward to continuing this conversation with the DOE as we move through this process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rein van West
President, Western Colorado Congress

L49-6
(Cont.)

L49-7

L49-8

L49-9

L49-10

given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

L49-7 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L49-8 With regard to the concern that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

L49-9 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

L49-10 DOE retained Alternative 4 as its preferred alternative after careful consideration of public comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the evaluation discussed in this PEIS.

Western Colorado Congress, Commenter ID No. L49 (Cont.)



An Alliance for Community Action

July 1, 2013

Mr. Ray Plieness
DOE PEIS Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

RE: ULP Draft PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

In conjunction with our organizational comments to the Department of Energy regarding its Uranium Management Leasing Program (ULP) draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), Western Colorado Congress would like to include a statement of support for the comments submitted by Energy and Conservation Law on behalf plaintiff organizations in CEC v. OLM litigation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rein van West
President
Western Colorado Congress

L49-11

L49-11 Comment noted.

Community Alliance of the Yampa Valley • Routt County Ridgway-Ouray Community Council • Ouray County
Grand Valley Citizens Alliance • Garfield County Uncompahgre Valley Association • Montrose County
Western Colorado Congress of Mesa County

128 North Sixth Street
PO Box 1931
Grand Junction, CO 81502
970-256-7650; 970-245-0686 fax
info@wccongress.org

☑ WCC is a member group of the Western Organization of Resource Councils and Community Shares of Colorado

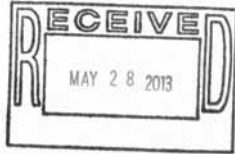
Western Small Miners Association, Commenter ID No. L36



May 20, 2013

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Western Small Miners Association
P. O. Box 644
Naturita, CO 81422



Re: Draft Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0472D)

Dear Mr. Plieness,

We would like to express our support for Preferred Alternative #4 -the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would continue the ULP with the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period. Our support is unequivocal and based on many levels. We will mention but a few.

By way of background, and with all due respect to others who will provide you comments, we suspect the Western Small Miners Association (WSMA) may be the most experienced and impacted group that the DOE will hear from. WSMA is headquartered in Naturita, Colorado. Our membership demographic includes individuals who live and work in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Utah. Our membership varies greatly in occupation, including: miners, ranchers, farmers, energy producers, small businesses and conservationists.

We, and our families, have been living on and working this land for our country since before they were set aside for the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in 1948. Our DNA includes that of the Cold War Patriots, honorees of U.S. Senate Resolution 151, where "these patriotic men and women" were "recognized for their contribution, service and sacrifice towards the defense of our great nation." For generations, we have raised our families in this land while participating in multiple aspects of the programs conducted by the DOE ULP and its predecessors, including mining, administration, leasing and many successful reclamation projects. Most importantly, our Members continue to live, work and raise our families in this land and in its communities today. We are your neighbors.

First things first; we believe the preferred alternative is good for America. We believe the DOE can best meet its charge from the U.S. Congress of developing a domestic supply of uranium from these proven mineralized lands in the heart of the Uravan Mineral Belt. We believe the U.S. must act now to address its unhealthy reliance on the foreign supply of uranium for over 90% of U.S. consumption, which via its use as fuel for nuclear reactors provides the U.S. with its only carbon free base load electrical generation and nearly 20% of all electricity in the U.S. We think that is good for the environment as well.

Second, the PEIS clearly addresses the potential environmental impacts across thirteen resources / systems and supports the choice of the preferred alternative #4. The PEIS properly discusses the established measures to minimize potential impacts from ULP Mining. These compliance measures, mitigation measures and Best Management practices present a proven and safe framework for

L36-1

L36-1 DOE retained Alternative 4 as its preferred alternative after careful consideration of public comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the evaluation discussed in this PEIS.

L36-2

L36-2 Comment noted. See also response to L36-1.

L36-3

L36-3 Comment noted. DOE believes that the requirements with which the lessees have to comply, along with the mitigation measures and BMPs that will be implemented for uranium mining activities at the ULP, would result in minimal impacts to the environment and would be protective of human health.

Western Small Miners Association, Commenter ID No. L36 (Cont.)

uranium from other countries (where the environmental protections and worker safety protections are not as strong as in the U.S.) is not global environmentalism or humanitarianism. Rather, it seems selfish, self-serving and suspect NIMBY (not in my backyard) desires.

L36-3
(Cont.)

Third, we believe it important to emphasize that there is no place in the U.S. with better existing infrastructure to conduct such mining activities. To abandon these lands and start over anywhere else would create unnecessary environmental impacts and costs. Why would you?

L36-4

L36-4 Comment noted.

Fourth, we would emphasize the vanadium mineralization of these lease tracts. There is no other location blessed with dual mineralization of strategic minerals in economic concentrations. The bonus of vanadium, and the promise of superior grid level and facility level energy storage with vanadium redox batteries, is unique to this land. This energy storage solution provides great promise to increase the ability of intermittent wind and solar power to actually match patterns of real energy consumption.

L36-5

L36-5 Comment noted.

Fifth, as stated earlier, we are a group who live, work and raise our families in this land. We take pride in our stewardship of the land and have for generations. No one can care more about the health, safety and well being of our children than we do. That said, we value determinations based upon science and upon today's operating standards and regulations (and candidly think little of opposition arguments based on either unsubstantiated fear-mongering or how things were conducted in the very different times and circumstances past).

L36-6

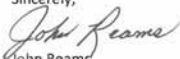
L36-6 See response L36-3.

Lastly, the re-development of the uranium and vanadium mining industry is critical to the economic well being of the region. We ask that the DOE continue to look long and hard at the contributions made by the people of this region for generations, and to properly weight and consider the positive economic impact of the preferred alternative. We also ask for your diligent effort to conclude this process, as delays only serve to hurt those with much to give in support of your mission and efforts.

L36-7

L36-7 See response L36-1.

We appreciate the tremendous level of effort, documentation and analysis the DOE has put into this body of work. We thank you for your consideration of our comments and trust you will accept them in the positive spirit they are provided.

Sincerely,

 John Reams
 President
 WSMA

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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Acker, Thomas, Commenter ID No. T3

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

26

1 management of the site.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
4 very much.

5 Our next commenter is Kristin Pfaff.

6 KRISTIN PFAFF: Hi, I'm Kristin Pfaff, I'm a
7 nursing student at Colorado Mesa; I'm here with my
8 fellow students.

9 One of my fellow students, Choi, and I just
10 completed a report on the mine and its potential
11 impacts, and I wanted to echo what Beverly said and
12 just encourage a thorough investigation of all the
13 lingering potential human health threats that could
14 remain long after the mine is gone.

15 And I guess personally, I would bring up
16 that in my observations over the past 10 years, I've
17 noticed an increase in the intensity of the spring
18 dust storms that we have, and I'm hoping the
19 Environmental Impact Statement will focus some
20 research on the impacts of what is being carried in
21 the surrounding valleys during those storms. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Kristin.

24 And Thomas Acker?

25 THOMAS ACKER: I am interested in the aspect



T3-1

T3-1

The human health evaluation performed for this PEIS is discussed in Sections 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5, for Alternatives 1 to 5, respectively. The evaluation considers the potential for latent cancer fatalities from the exploration, mine development/mine operations, and reclamation for the five alternatives. The estimates for the alternatives indicate that potential impacts to off-site residents and on-site recreationists would be within regulatory requirements.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under the oversight of DOE has been completed. DOE requires reclamation of all future new mines as is stipulated in the leases.

Acker, Thomas, Commenter ID No. T3 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

27

1 related to how these activities will create issues for
2 our community. Right now we're trying to develop the
3 riverfront, the Las Colonias project. In interviewing
4 the community members from the way back in the '30s,
5 '40s and more recently, they talk about when they were
6 little kids playing in the tailings piles.

7 And we all know that there's a cancer rate
8 in our area that is doubled that of Colorado and also
9 four times that of the national rate.

10 These are issues that I think we should
11 consider, given what we're proposing, that we go back
12 to an energy source. Which in listening to the
13 Germans, where they have, you know, recognized that
14 this is a diminishing return, that it's a source that
15 they're trying to use less and less, recognizing the
16 difficulties with storage and all the other related
17 issues that this industry would create.

18 We are a community; I would hope that we
19 recognize we still have a legacy of lots of issues
20 that haven't been taken care of. And that is
21 something -- I think the most important thing that we
22 should consider here.

23 And finally, as a person living in a
24 democratic society, I have to question the process
25 here and ask, we've gotten to a point where we have a

T3-1
(Cont.)

T3-2

T3-2

DOE's preferred alternative is Alternative 4 after careful consideration of all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation.

Acker, Thomas, Commenter ID No. T3 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

28

1 preferred process, which is number 4. I have to ask
2 myself, the Department of Energy, if they've made up
3 their minds and there's a preferred process, I really
4 am curious to know how much impact any of our
5 statements will have on the decision making process.
6 It's a concern of mine as a small-d democrat. Thank
7 you.

T3-2
(Cont.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Thomas. And I know
9 that the DOE staff and other experts will, when we
10 finish the meeting -- not only are you going to be
11 able to ask them questions about the information, but
12 they might want to explore some of the comments that
13 they've heard tonight such as that one. So thank you
14 very much for those comments.

15 We're going to go to Eric Niederkruger.
16 If you could come up to the podium?

17 ERIC NIEDERKRUGER: Good evening. I
18 submitted written comments, and I have just a few
19 brief comments now in person I'd like to say.

20 First off, I'd like to thank everybody who
21 came here tonight, despite the billions of dollars
22 that have been spent to keep you at home watching
23 television.

24 I get melancholy when I look around my
25 virtual neighborhood and I hear such bittersweet terms

Adams, Francine, Commenter ID No. E94

From: Francine Adams
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 6:33:09 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Francine Adams

E94-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E94-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E94-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E94-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Adams, Francine, Commenter ID No. E94 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E94-5 See responses to E94-1 and E94-2.

Adamson, Susie, Commenter ID No. T20

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

22

1 whole life, and this is important, because we don't
2 have this resource too much in this country. Uranium
3 is hard to find, and we have to buy it from countries
4 we are not friends with. They will cut us off one
5 day.

6 This stuff does not kill you. It's in my
7 pocket.

8 There is another problem, too. We have a
9 small group of people in this country that fight
10 everything over and over again. A lot of them in
11 Telluride, who brought the last lawsuit, they used
12 more energy, they used more gas in their cars, and
13 they used more heat in their homes. Yet they fight
14 everything.

15 They would close our coal plant down, they
16 will close this down, they'll close our oil and gas
17 down. And this has got to stop, because it's costing
18 all of us a fortune to live.

19 That's my comment. Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dennis.

21 And Susie, can you come up?

22 SUSIE ADAMSON: Okay. Maybe you guys can
23 understand me. I hope so. My name is Susie Adamson;
24 I'm a Colorado native; I was born here.

25 MR. CAMERON: Susie, can I can interrupt

T20-1

T20-1

Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Adamson, Susie, Commenter ID No. T20 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

23

1 you, because we need to make sure that Elizabeth can
2 see you. So if you can just move... Beautiful. Okay.

3 Go ahead, Susie.

4 SUSIE ADAMSON: I'm an old lady now. I'm
5 almost 80. Environmental groups over and over put
6 (inaudible) on companies that are trying to do
7 legitimate business and let people have a job.

8 I hate what's happening out there. And
9 people have enough money to throw it away while people
10 that need the jobs starve to death. I think you guys
11 better keep it going where the 31 can go. They have
12 to have the jobs. We have to have the uranium.

13 There's also minerals up there that are
14 worth a ton of money to our development. They're rare
15 earths. We need to get these. We're not going to get
16 them from China much longer, so let's get rid of the
17 lawsuit-happy people, okay? I'm tired of the
18 lawsuits.

19 Shoot, we have (inaudible) that have been in
20 the planning stages for 75 years and we can't get it
21 because of environmental (inaudible). It's gone too
22 far. It's time to stop. It's time to let this go.
23 And I appreciate you trying to get it going. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Susie.

T20-1
(Cont.)

Allen, Chris, Commenter ID No. L10

Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



Re: Draft Uranium Leasing Programmatic EIS

Attn: Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager:

I wish to offer my support to alternative 4, allowing all 31 uranium leasing tracts to be retained for development. I consider myself a conservationist, and see no reason to not allow uranium mining to be carried out in this country.

The EIS, like the EA before it, recognizes that the modern uranium industry is a responsible steward of the land, and conducts its business with a consciousness that should be the envy of the world. Combined with the exhaustive efforts of your organization in developing a very thorough and detailed examination of each aspect of the environment, and the ways in which the leasing options could impact them and how best to mitigate those impacts, I am very comfortable with the selection of an alternative that allows economic development to exist alongside our laudable conservation efforts.


One cannot ignore the many economic benefits of developing this resource; not only do these mining operations create jobs and wealth, (and trigger local economic growth via supporting businesses, housing, and the like) but the commodity being developed is an important one. As a conservationist, I want an energy source that is environmentally benign, while still providing me, my family, and my business with the energy we need to carry on with our daily lives. Nuclear energy fits that bill. It is a clean source that does not contribute to climate change, and has the capability of producing enormous amounts of electricity with a very minimal footprint.

I find it unfortunate that some are so short-sighted that they would reflexively oppose such a program on ideological grounds. I trust instead to the work of scientists, engineers, specialists, and economists, and to my own reason to show me the appropriate route to take as a community and a society.

I am convinced that nuclear power is a desirable energy alternative, and that the uranium recovery that supports it can and should be done domestically, and with minimal detriment to the rest of the environment. I am left, unavoidably, with supporting Alternative 4 as the most appropriate decision for the Department of Energy to make.

Thank you for your time and efforts, and for accepting my comments.

Respectfully,


Chris Allen
578 Rio Linda Lane
Grand Junction, CO 81507

L10-1

L10-1

DOE evaluated potential environmental impacts for the five alternatives it considered to be the range of reasonable alternatives for management of the ULP and considered all public comments received on the Draft PEIS in its determination of Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

L10-2

L10-2

The PEIS presents the results of evaluation of environmental impacts for 13 resources that included socioeconomics and air quality (which also addressed climate change aspects).

Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L10-3

L10-3

The evaluations presented in the PEIS provided the information for DOE's decision-making for the five alternatives it considered to be the range of reasonable alternatives for the management of the ULP.

Andersen, Lori, Commenter ID No. E74

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 11:30:45 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: Lori Andersen []
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 10:07 AM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor"^{xxx} environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Lori Andersen

E74-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E74-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E74-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E74-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Andersen, Lori, Commenter ID No. E74 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E74-5 See responses to E74-1 and E74-2.

Anderson, Gordon, Commenter ID No. E59

From: Gordon Anderson
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:41:14 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Gordon Anderson

E59-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy are outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E59-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E59-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E59-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Anderson, Gordon, Commenter ID No. E59 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E59-5 See responses to E59-1 and E59-2.

Anderson, Gordon, Commenter ID No. E97

From: Gordon Anderson
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 7:12:45 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Gordon Anderson

E97-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E97-1

E97-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

E97-2

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E97-2

E97-3

E97-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E97-4

E97-5

E97-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Anderson, Gordon, Commenter ID No. E97 (Cont.)

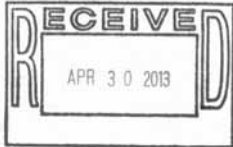
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Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E97-5 See responses to E97-1 and E97-2.

Applegate, Josh, Commenter ID No. L16

Mr. Ray Plieness
Office of Legacy Management
DOE
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



April 23, 2013

RE: Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sir,

I am writing to support the adoption of Alternative 4 in this PEIS, on two grounds: first, that the economic benefits are too great to ignore, and second that the environmental impacts are minimal.

On the first point, it is fairly obvious that continuing the lease program will bring with it a potential for great job growth and economic expansion in the region. This is traditionally a mining area, and mining is the economic backbone of the region. There simply does not exist another industry that can support the local communities in the way that resource extraction can.

Perhaps less obvious to the casual observer is the wider national economic benefit of the uranium leasing program. Right now, the United States imports 90% or more of the uranium we use. As nuclear power grows in importance both here and around the world, the price of uranium will go up, at which point it would be in our nation's economic interest to have our own supply.

The second reason for my support of Alternative 4 is environmental. It is certainly proper to have concern for the environmental effects of development, and by extension, it was appropriate to complete a NEPA analysis. A review of the EIS shows two things: (1) a very complete analysis has been done of the potential environmental impacts, and (2) those impacts will be light.

To summarize, the economic advantages of the ULP far outweigh the environmental risks; therefore Alternative 4, as your office has aptly recognized, is the appropriate choice going forward.

Signed,

Josh Applegate
637 Howard St.
Delta, CO 81416

L16-1

L16-1 Comment noted. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L16-2

L16-2 DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Arrington, Bob, Commenter ID No. E108

From: Bob Arrington
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 11:59:17 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Bob Arrington

E108-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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E108-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E108-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E108-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Arrington, Bob, Commenter ID No. E108 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E108-5 See responses to E108-1 and E108-2.

Aubert, Josh, Commenter ID No. L22

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

April 19, 2013



Ref: Uranium Leasing EIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

This letter is in support of Alternative 4 for the ULP PEIS. Keeping all of these leases is in the interest of American national and economic security, and is an important part of any strategy to make and keep our nation energy independent.

Despite what you may hear from some extremist naysayers, nuclear power is the key to switching from fossil fuels to a cleaner, more permanent energy source.

As more and more electricity worldwide is generated from nuclear plants, uranium will become increasingly scarcer. Even if the United States stubbornly does not build additional nuclear power plants (as we should), it would still behoove us to mine uranium, as we already import more than 90% of the uranium we use already.

Once the enormous economic and environmental benefits of nuclear energy are fully realized in this country, we could be in a position to desperately need this resource.

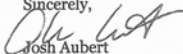
In terms of the environmental impact of the program, all studies and indicators suggest that it would be minimal at worst. The mines that would be developed on the leases are for the most part comparatively small, and would be built in areas that already boast a considerable legacy of mining. With the environmental and production technologies, efficiencies, and procedures in place nowadays, the impact is reduced further still.

The ULP brings significant local economic advantages as well, in addition to the national ones. These mines will give rise to hundreds of jobs, and generate economic growth and revenue for the local counties and municipalities.

There is no other industry in the area that can match the economic benefit that mining can, and that should weigh heavily on any decision.

Overall, there are great benefits to keeping the 31 leases intact, and very little downside. For these reasons, I urge you to adopt Alternative 4 in your record of decision.

Sincerely,


Josh Aubert
2674 Cambridge Rd
Grand Junction, CO 81506

L22-1

L22-1

Comment noted. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L22-2

L22-2

In addition to complying with regulatory requirements, mining activities under DOE's preferred alternative would also be conducted in accordance with lease agreements which include the implementation of mitigation measures identified to further minimize potential impacts.

L22-3

L22-3

Potential socioeconomic impacts were evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.8 to 4.5.8) and the positive benefit of jobs being generated is discussed in these sections.

Bachman, Hether, Commenter ID No. E43

From: [Hether Bachman](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: uranium mining
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:30:35 PM

As someone who lives in this area, I am strongly against allowing the proposed uranium mining on the 31 tracts of land in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties in Colorado. Uranium is toxic - both to the workers, and to anyone breathing the airborne dust from the mining operations. It will also result in increased traffic and road degeneration from the trucking and large equipment operations to harvest it. It is a bad idea to allow this to occur. I encourage to please vote against these mining operations. Thank you.

Hether Bachman

E43-1

E43-1 Comment noted.

The PEIS evaluated potential impacts to human health including the potential for inhalation of airborne dust from the ULP lease tracts during mining operations (see Sections 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5). Potential transportation impacts are also evaluated and discussed in Sections 4.1.10, 4.2.10, 4.3.10, 4.4.10, and 4.5.10, respectively for Alternatives 1 to 5.

Baker, Jefferson, Commenter ID No. L23

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

April 17th, 2013

RE: Draft Uranium Leasing Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement


Dear Mr. Plieness,
Please accept this letter as my comment on the referenced lease plan EIS. Uranium is essential to our national energy security, as we currently import the vast majority (>90%) of our uranium from other countries. Nuclear energy will continue to grow in importance around the world, and therefore uranium supplies will become ever more valuable.

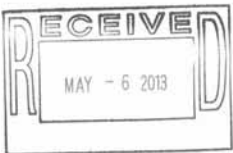
They will also become more and more expensive, as our current uranium suppliers begin to either hoard their supplies for their own use, or charge more for selling it. With this in mind, it seems to make good sense to get ahead of the curve, and start securing our own sources. We have a plentiful quantity of uranium in this area, enough to provide for a healthy nuclear industry for well into the future. Moreover, allowing its development will have economic benefits locally, as well as nationally.

There are some who would rather we not develop this resource, who instead wish to stop any mining, and presumably adopt a rather more primitive lifestyle. This is not a realistic proposition, of course, and certainly not a good option for the local communities who depend on responsible extractive industries for their survival.

In addition, the most environmentally friendly position to take is in fact to allow the development of the leases in the Uranium Leasing Plan, since we can mine that uranium in a far more ecologically sensitive manner than any other country on earth. The simple fact is that we are going to use uranium – would we rather it be mined responsibly, within our borders and under our control, or that it be dug up in countries with little in the way of environmental regulations and controls?

Since the most benefit will come to both the economy and the environment if Alternative 4 is adopted, and the leases continued, I recommend that be the option selected by the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,

Jefferson Baker
439 South Placer Court
Grand Junction, CO 81504



L23-1

L23-1

Comment noted. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L23-2

L23-2

See Response to L23-1. To the commenter's point made about the capability of mining responsibly and observing environmental regulations and controls, mining activities under DOE's preferred alternative would be conducted in compliance with regulatory requirements and lease agreements (which include implementation of mitigation measures identified to further minimize potential impacts).

Ballantyne, Marvin, Commenter ID No. T25

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

29

1 both of those mines are Chinese mines. And I think
2 this is domestic, we need to hold on to our own and
3 not ship it out. I think that's really important.

4 I was in the manufacturing business for 30
5 years. And I know without the trace metals and these
6 things, I wouldn't have been in business. And if we
7 run out of these, China is going to run it.

8 And if you think that's wrong, we wouldn't
9 have any of those solar problems -- solar projects,
10 because it takes certain metals to make those bearings
11 work. And without those, we are dead.

12 And I think we need to make sure that we do
13 it domestic, though. I think that's important.
14 Because China is buying up our destiny, and we're
15 selling it to them. And we have to watch out for
16 this. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Wally.
18 And Marvin Ballantyne is coming up to speak to us.

19 Marvin?

20 MARVIN BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Good
21 evening, my name is Marvin Ballantyne, I'm a member of
22 Western Colorado Congress, but I'm just speaking on my
23 own here tonight.

24 You know, whatever alternative is approved
25 here does not make mining happen. Mining is a



T25-1

T25-1 Section 3.6.2 of the PEIS provides an extensive overview of the wildlife in the lease tract area (Section 3.6.4 addresses special status wildlife species). Sections 4.3.6.2 provides an overview of the potential impacts of uranium mining on wildlife (Section 4.3.6.4 discusses potential impacts on special status wildlife species). Section 4.6 provides a number of measures that would protect wildlife. These are both directly aimed at wildlife species or afford protection indirectly (e.g., protection measures for water resources and soils).

The purpose of the environmental justice analysis conducted for the PEIS was to identify high and adverse impacts to low-income and minority populations. While there are minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of cumulative influence evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In any case, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor, and therefore, there would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Waste generated in addition to waste rock (which is mostly rock material removed to get to the ore deposits and is stockpiled and retained at the mine site location and then subsequently graded to a preferred slope, provided with a protective top-cover material, and seeded during reclamation) is either taken to a local landfill with a small amount of low-level radioactive waste, taken to the mill for processing along with the ore produced, or taken to a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

Ballantyne, Marvin, Commenter ID No. T25 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

30

1 function of the market; there's no market right now
2 for uranium, and there may not be for a long time, no
3 matter what you do about it. Because there's many
4 places we can get uranium a lot cheaper than the west
5 end of this county.

6 What's been supplying in part for a long
7 time, I understand, is the Russian weapons. And that
8 program is going to end, but it's going to switch from
9 government to private, where Russians can sell their
10 uranium, their bomb-grade uranium directly to the
11 power plants. They have to diminish its power a
12 little bit first by diluting it, but there's still a
13 lot of uranium that can last for years.

14 And then the United States has 20,000
15 warheads that they haven't done anything with, I
16 understand. That's the supply.

17 Besides that, around the world, there are a
18 lot of places uranium is mined much less expensively
19 than the United States. And in the United States,
20 almost all uranium is coming from in situ mines right
21 now, I believe, where it's much, much cheaper than
22 digging it out of the ground and milling it like what
23 has to be done in the west end.

24 Thank you for doing the PEIS draft. I'm
25 happy that it's the draft; I think there are a number

T25-1
(Cont.)

Ballantyne, Marvin, Commenter ID No. T25 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

31

1 of issues that need to be looked at again. People
2 talked about some impacts tonight. It was in the
3 summary that I read that kept saying that there were
4 minimal impacts, that as an example, wildlife and
5 outdoor recreation.

6 Some of the other things I noticed in the
7 PEIS under Environmental Justice, it stated that --
8 this is a quote here -- there are no minority or low
9 income populations within the region of cumulative
10 impacts.

11 And I have to wonder about that. Did
12 anybody look? We're complaining about jobs in the
13 west end, but the EIS and the PEIS says there's no
14 economic hardship? That's crazy.

15 Under Waste Management, the conclusion is
16 that impact is expected to be minor. How could that
17 possibly be true of a mining operation?

18 Anyway. And on the subject of jobs, it said
19 that the preferred alternative -- I guess it says the
20 impacts of uranium mining would be generally
21 considered beneficial.

22 I'd like to submit that maybe that's not
23 true over the long term; we've got boom, bust, boom,
24 bust. Every time the boom was related to a federal
25 underwriting of the price of uranium. And that's

T25-1
(Cont.)

T25-2

T25-2

Section 3.8 of the PEIS discusses employment and job sectors in the ROI, including how employment has changed over time. An overview of periods of boom and bust economic conditions in the ROI has been added.

Sections 4.1.8.1, 4.2.8, 4.3.8.1, 4.4.8.1, and 4.5.8.1 of the PEIS examine how a reduction in the recreation economy in the ROI could impact the local economy. In addition, text has been added to reflect non-economic impacts to recreation from uranium mining and operations in the ROI.

Ballantyne, Marvin, Commenter ID No. T25 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

32

1 going to happen in the future, so how is this going to
2 work for providing sustainable, long-term good paying
3 jobs.

4 And since 1980, jobs have actually been
5 increasing. And sustainable if they're recreation,
6 hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain climbing, many of
7 those things that are perfectly benign as far as
8 environmental concerns.

9 They pay okay, they don't -- they're not
10 destructive, and they are long term. And I would
11 submit that even talking about uranium at this point
12 can be damaging to the opportunity for investment in
13 outdoor activity businesses.

14 We can build a hotel in an area where you
15 want to, but was it going to be tainted by a uranium
16 mine or mill? I think not.

17 And finally, the jobs. Lots and lots and
18 lots of jobs can be created by DOE and the federal
19 government getting behind the clean-up of 1,200
20 uranium mines that are already there and are not
21 producing, haven't been doing anything for years, but
22 they're an environmental hazard, and something that's
23 not pretty to look at.

24 So I would encourage DOE and our federal
25 government to get after the whole idea of cleaning up

T25-2
(Cont.)

T25-3

T25-3

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Ballantyne, Marvin, Commenter ID No. T25 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

33

1 what's there to a healthy standard. And that would
2 provide lots of jobs. And they can start right now;
3 you don't have to wait for the price of uranium to go
4 from \$45 a pound to 75 or more, which I don't think is
5 going to happen. Thank you very much.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Marvin. And this
7 is Jim Riddell. Then we're going to go to Dave
8 Crawford.

9 Jim?

10 JIM RIDDELL: Thanks. I'm Jim Riddell, and
11 I'm a member of the Uncompahgre Valley Association,
12 which is part of the Western Colorado Congress. But
13 as Marvin said, I'm not speaking on behalf of the
14 organization, just as an individual.

15 Most of you probably have been into this
16 area we're describing here. And if you drive through
17 that area, you come across a really remarkable feature
18 of engineering that I suspect most of you have seen.
19 If you haven't, I encourage you to see it.

20 It's a thing that was built about a hundred
21 years ago called the hanging flume. And how many of
22 you have ever rafted or floated under the hanging
23 flume? Okay, several other people. I appreciate
24 that.

25 It's really a spectacular feature there.

T25-3
(Cont.)

Barford, Denise, Commenter ID No. E79

From: denise_barford
To: mail_ulpois
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:19:34 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely, denise barford

denise barford

E79-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E79-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E79-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E79-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Barford, Denise, Commenter ID No. E79 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E79-5 See responses to E79-1 and E79-2.

Bennett, Jan, Commenter ID No. W16

Thank you for your comment, jan bennett.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50016.

Comment Date: June 4, 2013 16:41:53PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50016

First Name: jan
Middle Initial: k
Last Name: bennett
Organization: ubiorbi
Address: po box 40422
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: denver
State: CO
Zip: 80204
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Environmental impacts?? BAD. How can it be good? How can uranium bring peace or sensible management of our resource. It will no benefit the people of Colorado. It will be used for purposes of war or forms of energy that are potentially deadly to mankind. The Indians oppose it. They are the true custodians of this country, it has been in their hands for 20,000 years. White immigrants have destroyed same in the matter of -100 years. It has to stop now. We do not have the mental discipline to use this dangerous resource intelligently.

W16-1

W16-1

Comment noted.

Beverly, Robert G., Commenter ID No. L2

Robert G. Beverly
3001 N. 12th Street, Unit 1
Grand Junction, CO 81506-4113

Phone: (970) 242 - 2753
e-mail: robviv2330@bresnan.net

April 1, 2013

Mr. Ray Plieness
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover St., Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Subject: Uranium Leasing Program PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Unfortunately I will be out of the state when all of the hearings on the proposed uranium operations in Mesa, Montrose and Delta Counties will be held and cannot present verbal testimony. In place, I am submitting this letter and enclosure.

I worked for the Mining and Metals Division of Union Carbide for 28 years as Director of Environmental and Public Affairs and in this position became closely affiliated with uranium mining and milling. Before that, starting in 1954, I was manager of National Lead's Grand Junction pilot plant processing various uranium ores. I also chaired Colorado Governor's Radiation Advisory Committee for many years and served on several state and federal committees involving uranium mining and milling. Thus, with several decades of experience in the raw materials phase of nuclear energy, I am intimately familiar with the subject that this EIS addresses.

I was senior author of a paper, "Impacts of Uranium Mining on the Environment," which I presented in 1983 in Canberra, Australia at an international symposium on radioactive waste management. To my knowledge this is the only paper of note addressing uranium mining. There are several that have been prepared on uranium milling.

I am enclosing the summary of this 40-page paper. Basically, it shows that uranium mining, both underground and open pit, had no impact on the environment or, where there were measurable amounts of radioactive material detected in the environment, which were adjacent to open pit mines and milling operations, the amounts were less than one percent of the recommended maximum for unrestricted areas.

Union Carbide operated a major uranium milling operation in Uravan, Colorado across the San Miguel River from a company town where over a thousand people lived. Toward the end of our operations we had an epidemiological study conducted of all of the people that lived in Uravan more than a year. This study detected no measurable health effects that could in any way be connected to the uranium operation in close vicinity.

From this broad experience in studying the environmental impacts of uranium mining and milling, I, without hesitation, recommend that the proposed mining and milling operations in Western Colorado should proceed as proposed. They will have significant beneficial financial impact and no significant environmental impact. Concerns that some groups living 65 miles from the proposed activities have are completely unfounded.

I hope this information will be helpful in your preparation of the final EIS.

Sincerely,


Robert G. Beverly

L2-1

L2-1

Comment noted. DOE acknowledges the commenter's submittal of the enclosure which presents information regarding uranium milling and mining and its potential impacts.

L2-2

L2-2

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Boeschenstein, Bennett, Commenter ID No. E30

From: [Bennett.Boeschenstein](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 6:35:35 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Bennett Boeschenstein

E30-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E30-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E30-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E30-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Boeschenstein, Bennett, Commenter ID No. E30 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E30-5 See responses to E30-1 and E30-2.

Boling, Ashley, Commenter ID No. T42

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

49

1 emergency response for those events.

2 Remediation must be timely and complete.

3 Citizens cannot settle for less and the private

4 endeavors must post adequate bonds so the taxpayer

5 is not left with the bill. It's interesting to

6 note at the headwaters of the San Miguel, we have a

7 Superfund site. Right up there, and so far, it's

8 not complying with the consent decree. At the end

9 of the San Miguel, we have another Superfund site.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Linda, can --

11 LINDA MILLER: I'm done. I don't

12 want the San Miguel to be a sacrifice area. Thank

13 you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,

15 Linda. Ashley Boling and then Linda Thurston.

16 ASHLEY BOLING: Hi. My name is

17 Ashley Boling. I live in San Miguel County. I'm a

18 father. I'm a resident for the last 23 years here.

19 Just to be clear with everyone in this

20 room, I'm against any further uranium mining, any

21 current or proposed in the future uranium mining

22 and/or milling.

23 I recognize a lot of people in the crowd

24 here. Could you raise your hand if anyone is here

25 from Energy Fuels Corporation. Anyone here?



T42-1

T42-1 Comment noted.

Boling, Ashley, Commenter ID No. T42 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

50

1 Anyone here from Cotter Corporation? You are.
2 Anyone here from Denison Mining Corporation? Okay.
3 I'm just curious. Could you raise your hand if you
4 don't live in San Miguel County.

5 MR. CAMERON: And I just want to
6 point out to the audience that it's great that
7 Ashley is asking these questions, but you don't
8 have to respond if you don't want to.

9 Go ahead, Ashley.

10 ASHLEY BOLING: Thanks for making
11 that clear.

12 I think I have four minutes and I would
13 like to respond or at least speak my mind. I have
14 been to a few meetings in Montrose County and San
15 Miguel County. I haven't been to meetings in other
16 states because it's not really an issue about
17 mining uranium or building a proposed uranium mill.
18 My understanding is in the rest of the 49 states
19 and jurisdictions of the United States, nobody
20 wants one in their backyard, so it's not really an
21 issue.

22 But it happens to be an issue here. I
23 live about four and a half miles west of here in
24 San Miguel County, and that's 50-some miles
25 downwind from the proposed increased mining and

T42-2

T42-2

The PEIS analysis evaluates a 50-mile radius from the ULP lease tracts. Potential impacts for the environmental resource areas and human health are indicated to be negligible to minor (see Section I.3.2 for summary discussion of potential impacts for each of the resource areas analyzed).

In addition, inspection reports to date prepared to document inspections of previous mining activities on the lease tracts have not indicated any non-conformance with regulatory requirements or lease agreements. See Section 1.3 for a summary.

Boling, Ashley, Commenter ID No. T42 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

51

1 increased milling and that concerns me. I have a
2 ten-year-old son. That concerns me too.

3 I have been to other meetings and I have
4 asked the question of elected officials and of
5 people who are getting paid to represent us and
6 protect us, like CDPHE. I have asked this question
7 and I'll ask it again: Show me an example of
8 uranium extraction and/or processing and milling on
9 our planet that has a 100 percent safety record,
10 where there has never been any spills -- and I'm
11 sorry. I can't call the Deepwater Horizon event a
12 spill, the worst environmental catastrophe in the
13 United States, and no one from either BP or
14 Haliburton or Transocean has been indicted or gone
15 to jail because of that, and people were killed
16 initially in that explosion. I'm going off on a
17 tangent there.

18 But show me an example of this industry
19 where it's been safe. And if it's so safe and DOE
20 and others involved are so confident that this
21 mining of uranium and the milling and processing
22 and enriching of it -- and then selling it to other
23 countries like China, who then can sell it to North
24 Korea to further their uranium industries and do
25 who knows what with it after that.

T42-2
(Cont.)

Boling, Ashley, Commenter ID No. T42 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

52

1 Show me an example where it's safe and
2 I'm willing to listen. I've done some research. I
3 haven't been able to find one on our planet. We
4 can't contain or dispose of or effectively use this
5 very dangerous, highly toxic substance. It's a
6 gamble to me, and I'm not willing to take the
7 gamble. I'm very conservative.

8 So that's my charge, my question, to the
9 Department of Energy and others. Show me an
10 example where it's safe and we can control it, and
11 there's never a truck that turns over and no one's
12 water ever gets polluted and I will believe you.

13 I will conclude with this before you tell
14 me my time's up. Albert Einstein said of uranium
15 and its use in producing electricity: What an
16 absurdly ridiculous way to boil water.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.
18 Linda Thurston.

19 JENNIFER THURSTON: Did you call me
20 Linda?

21 MR. CAMERON: I did. Is that wrong?

22 JENNIFER THURSTON: For the record,
23 my name is Jennifer Thurston. I live in Norwood,
24 Colorado and I'm from San Miguel County, the heart
25 of the Uranium Leasing Program, the most wonderful

T42-2
(Cont.)



Bowen, Sandra, Commenter ID No. E2

From: [Sandy_Bowen](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: public comment uranium mining
Date: Sunday, April 21, 2013 5:16:20 PM

Dear Sir:

I would like to protest the expansion of uranium mining recently proposed for Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel counties in western Colorado.

Uranium mining anywhere is dangerous--aren't there enough law suits brought by miners as it is?--but to allow it in these areas would be foolhardy. The San Miguel drains into the Dolores, and that in turn enters the Colorado River just over the Utah line from Colorado. The waters from these rivers supply millions of people and thousands of acres of agricultural land. In addition, the land drained by these rivers is not only some of the most beautiful in the region, with millions of tourist dollars spent there every year, but also some of the most expensive land.

What can you possibly do to mitigate pollution disasters in those areas? What is the current American market for this product?

Please make careful and thoroughly researched choices.

Sandra L. Bowen

E2-1

E2-1

DOE identified Alternative 4 as its preferred alternative in this PEIS after careful consideration of public comments received and the results of the PEIS evaluation. DOE considers Alternative 4 to best suit the "Purpose and Need" for DOE action with regard to the ULP. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Mitigation measures are identified in lease agreements and summarized in Section 4.6.

Brannon, Lee, Commenter ID No. E122

From: Lee Brannon
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2013 11:51:30 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Lee Brannon

E122-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E122-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E122-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E122-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Brannon, Lee, Commenter ID No. E122 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E122-5 See responses to E122-1 and E122-2.

Brouillette, Carrie, Commenter ID No. L24

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



4/16/2013

Re: Uranium Leasing PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I am writing to express my strong support for Alternative 4 in the Uranium Leasing PEIS. This Alternative will allow the current leasing to stand on all 31 tracts.

Having reviewed the documentation, and having lived in the region for several years, I believe that the environmental impacts will be minor. The PEIS examined the potential impacts to several areas of the environment, and the determination seems to be that the current leasing plan will not be detrimental.

This is an area that has supported mining on a fairly large scale for many, many years, without destroying the land, or causing problems with air or water quality. Wildlife still flourishes in the region, providing ample opportunities for big-game hunting. Other outdoor recreational pursuits have also taken place in the region unhindered by the mining activity which provides the economic base for the area. There is nothing present in the uranium leasing plans for these 31 leases that would do anything to upset that balance.

These are not gigantic, open pit, strip mines like the ones often portrayed on television – these leases will mainly support small-to-medium size mines which employ modern technology and procedures to ensure that the recovery of the uranium is accomplished in a safe, responsible, environmentally friendly manner.

Given the economic importance of the resource, I can see no reason to terminate the leases. I therefore encourage the DOE to stick with the plan, and adopt Alternative 4.

Regards,

Carrie Brouillette
Carrie Brouillette
3329 Woodgate Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81506

L24-1

L24-1

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L24-2

L24-2

See response to L24-1.

Brown, Charla, Commenter ID No. E31

From: Charla Brown
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 1:33:40 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Charla Brown

E31-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E31-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E31-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E31-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Brown, Charla, Commenter ID No. E31 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E31-5 See responses to E31-1 and E31-2.

Brown, Charla, Commenter ID No. E56

From: Charla Brown
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 8:08:56 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Charla Brown

E56-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E56-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E56-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E56-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Brown, Charla, Commenter ID No. E56 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E56-5 See responses to E56-1 and E56-2.

Brown, Charla, Commenter ID No. E117

From: Charla Brown
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 8:21:47 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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Sincerely,

Charla Brown

E117-1

E117-2

E117-3

E117-4

E117-5

E117-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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Brown, Charla, Commenter ID No. E117 (Cont.)

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Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E117-5 See responses to E117-1 and E117-2.



DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D)

U.S. Department of Energy

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM
Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. [checked] Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___
Name: DAVID BROWN
Title:
Organization:
Address: 35 Pilot Knob Lane
City: Telluride State: CO Zip Code: 81425
Phone: E-Mail Address:

Comment: I want you to preserve the uranium in the ground for future domestic use. DO NOT extract it for China now. REMEDIATE the public lands already destroyed by uranium industry to prevent further contamination of the Dolores Watershed & create new jobs now! Use PUBLIC land for renewables, to generate new jobs now & clean energy for the US.

L5-1
L5-2
L5-3

Alternative 1 does evaluate leaving the uranium ore in the ground. However, for DOE's preferred alternative (i.e., Alternative 4), the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.
Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.
The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Please use other side if more space is needed.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record.
Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to: Mr. Ray Plieness, DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Legacy Management, U.S. Department of Energy, 11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000, Westminster, CO 80021
Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to: ulpeis@anl.gov

Brown, Ruthie, Commenter ID No. E12

From: Ruthie Brown
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:05:54 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Ruthie Brown

E12-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E12-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E12-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E12-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Brown, Ruthie, Commenter ID No. E12 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E12-5 See responses to E12-1 and E12-2.

Cale, Dave, Commenter ID No. T9

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

37

1 uranium market has been depressed since 2007. There
2 was a blip. It's been depressed -- it's been depressed
3 since the 1980s.

4 And we see that it will not be considered,
5 because it's outside of the scope of their
6 administration. That wouldn't seem to ring true.

7 MR. CAMERON: Janet, I'm going to have to
8 ask you to sum up for us.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, I'll sum up what I want.
10 I want a new PEIS; we want it with the standard of
11 reclamation, and not speculative, but market demand
12 based leasing. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 Is it Dave? Dave Cak?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cale?

16 MR. CAMERON: Dave Cak?

17 DAVE CALE: Hi, my name is Dave Cale. I
18 speak as a little guy, small citizen of the community
19 who believes still in the right to the availability
20 and the purity of our air, our water, our soil, or
21 ecological balance.

22 I don't see -- and maybe I overlooked it,
23 but I don't see anything addressing in the PEIS
24 talking about agriculture in the Uravan belt, which
25 probably has changed over the years since the original



T9-1

T9-1

Agriculture and rangeland resources within the lease tracts are discussed in the affected environment chapter in Sections 3.7.2 and 3.7.3. The impact discussion on land use (see Section 4.1.7, 4.2.7, 4.3.7, 4.4.7, and 4.5.7) focused on the management of withdrawn lands and land use conflicts. Impacts to agriculture and other businesses are discussed in the socioeconomics sections (see Sections 4.1.8, 4.2.8, 4.3.8, 4.4.8, and 4.5.8)

Cale, Dave, Commenter ID No. T9 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

38

1 leases. I don't see a lot of discussion about
2 existing businesses and how these will be impacted by
3 the plan to open up these leases.

T9-1
(Cont.)

4 My biggest concern with this is two things:
5 Risk and trust. And I think given historically
6 looking at undertakings like this and the promises
7 that are made, I know there's also bigger, newer,
8 better, and it's always for a reason, a job, or
9 whatever; but in hindsight, it's always a different
10 story. Clean-ups, the expenses, it's always a
11 different picture.

T9-2

T9-2

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

12 I would vote for alternative 1, reclaiming
13 and remediating the existing territory back to its
14 natural state as close as it can be made.

15 Finally, I just want to say that, you know,
16 there's always the argument for jobs, which is great,
17 but I think that needs to be put in perspective. And
18 is the value of the jobs greater than the tax dollars
19 that are spent to clean up, the messes that are made;
20 is it greater than the value of the lost jobs that may
21 come from the agricultural community, the existing
22 businesses, the existing industries that are in place,
23 and is the value of the jobs greater than the
24 environmental degradation that results from reopening
25 the mines? Thank you.

T9-3

T9-3

Comment noted. See response to T9-2.

Callies, Lori, Commenter ID No. E78

From: _____
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Uranium mining
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 11:37:31 PM

Thank you for the extension time to comment. I do not want uranium mining in Colorado or elsewhere in my country.

Sincerely,
Lori Callies
Corte Madera, CA 94925

*"Nature never repeats herself, and the possibilities of one human soul will never be found in another."
Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

E78-1

E78-1

Comment noted.

Cascade, Robyn, Commenter ID No. E49

From: Robyn_Cascade
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 7:53:31 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I reside on the western slope of Colorado. I have seen the environmental degradation and the negative impact on human health caused by uranium mining. I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Robyn Cascade

E49-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E49-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E49-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E49-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Cascade, Robyn, Commenter ID No. E49 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E49-5 See responses to E49-1 and E49-2.

Case, Dudley, Commenter ID No. E4

From: _____
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Comments and concerns on Department of Energy Draft PEIS
Date: Sunday, May 12, 2013 2:42:57 PM

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I have a number of concerns and comments on the Draft PEIS:

1. The economic benefits (e.g. jobs) of this uranium mining are very limited. There may in fact be more economic benefits (e.g. jobs) from cleaning up the existing uranium mine sites than expanding uranium mining in western Colorado.
2. Adequate market demand for uranium at this time has not been demonstrated. And without a high uranium price (approximately \$85 per pound) on the commodities markets the mining of these deposits are not economically feasible.
3. Cheaper supplies of uranium of a higher quality are available from Canada and Australia.
4. The U.S. already has a 100 year supply of uranium in Oak Ridge Tennessee which can be used for civilian nuclear plants. So there is no need to mine any more uranium in the U.S. And any uranium which is mined in the U.S. will just be sold overseas since the U.S. has no need for any more uranium at this time. Do we really want to be supplying China with uranium?
5. The Draft PEIS has not taken into account the effects of climate change on uranium mining in western Colorado.
- 6 The Draft PEIS does not adequately address radon releases, water usage, and water contamination (e.g. selenium contamination) from the proposed uranium mining.
7. The bonding for the uranium mining is inadequate and in fact there should be separate and increased bonding for uranium mining, since uranium mining has the potential of being much more harmful than any other type of mining.

Thank you for your attention to my comments and concerns,

Dudley Case

E4-1

E4-1 The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI. This evaluation included that involving reclamation of the mine locations once mining operations are completed.

E4-2

Reclamation of the legacy mines under the oversight of DOE has been completed. The economic benefits of cleaning up mine areas that are not under DOE oversight is outside the scope of this PEIS.

E4-3

E4-2

The possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

E4-4

E4-3

In Chapter 4 for all five alternatives (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1), estimates of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ULP activities are provided and compared with Colorado and U.S. GHG emissions. And from this comparison, the PEIS concluded that potential impacts from mine development and operations on global climate change would be negligible.

E4-5

E4-4

The evaluation of potential human health impacts does address potential radon releases from mining activities for the alternatives evaluated (see sections on Human Health in Chapter 4); water usage and water quality are addressed in sections on Water Resources in Chapter 4. The information provided is considered adequate to support the identification of Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

E4-5

The manner that the amount of bonds is calculated is included in the lease agreements. Reclamation bonds are calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

Cassidy, Michael, Commenter ID No. E107

From: Michael Cassidy
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 9:06:30 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

No mining should be permitted near the Dolores or San Miguel Rivers!

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Michael Cassidy

E107-1

E107-2

E107-3

E107-4

E107-5

E107-6

E107-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E107-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

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E107-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

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Cassidy, Michael, Commenter ID No. E107 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E107-5 See responses to E107-1 and E107-2.

Catlin, Barbara, Commenter ID No. E32

From: Barbara Catlin
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 11:00:40 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Catlin

E32-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E32-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E32-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E32-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Catlin, Barbara, Commenter ID No. E32 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E32-5 See responses to E32-1 and E32-2.

Chamberlin, Judith, Commenter ID No. W10

Thank you for your comment, Judith Chamberlin.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50010.

Comment Date: April 28, 2013 14:54:10PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50010

First Name: Judith
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Chamberlin
Organization:
Address: 700 Sabeta Dr.
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Ridgway
State: CO
Zip: 81432
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I am very concerned about the health and environmental impacts of more Uranium mining in the western slope counties of Colorado. Although there may be potential short term job creation, there are other safer, more environmentally responsible methods for creating jobs. Uranium based economies are unstable; it is a boom and bust industry that has historically failed to bring long term economic gain to our region.

W10-1

Cleaning up old mine sites can create permanent jobs on the Western slope. Uranium clean up efforts not only strengthens our regional economies but creates jobs locally in our rural communities.

W10-2

The DOE can create energy by developing renewable energy projects on these disturbed sites; this same region has been recognized for its great solar energy potential!

W10-3

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Judith Chamberlin

W10-1 The evaluations conducted for the PEIS address potential impacts to human health and various environmental resources including potential socioeconomic impacts. See discussion in Section 1.2.1 regarding the concern for a “boom and bust” industry that could be brought on by the ULP proposed action.

W10-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

W10-3 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the “Purpose and Need” discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Chowen, Carole, Commenter ID No. E8

From: Carole Chowen
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:48:23 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Carole Chowen

E8-1

E8-2

E8-3

E8-4

E8-5

E8-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E8-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E8-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E8-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Chowen, Carole, Commenter ID No. E8 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E8-5 See responses to E8-1 and E8-2.

Clay, Margaret, Commenter ID No. E18

From: Margaret Clay
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:06:47 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clay

E18-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E18-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E18-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E18-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Clay, Margaret, Commenter ID No. E18 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E18-5 See responses to E18-1 and E18-2.

Clow, Scott, Commenter ID No. T51

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

1 And so I would say as a resident, that I
2 entirely disagree with the options here, the
3 alternatives. I'm more an Alternative 1 than 2.
4 So I do not agree with the way things are going and
5 I just wanted to make sure that that was heard
6 here. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
8 Nick. And I just want to thank all of you for
9 coming out tonight.

10 Did you want to make a comment?

11 SCOTT CLOW: Yes.

12 MR. CAMERON: Come on down. And we
13 have one other person, so we have two more
14 commenters.

15 Go ahead. Please introduce yourself,
16 sir.

17 SCOTT CLOW: Sure. I'll be brief
18 because I know it's late. My name is Scott Clow.
19 I live in Dolores, Colorado.

20 I just wanted to -- I wasn't going to say
21 anything tonight, but one of the gentlemen who
22 spoke earlier made a comment about the other 49
23 states. Currently the uranium that's mined in
24 Southwest Colorado is transported over to Utah
25 where there is a milling facility for uranium and



T51-1

T51-1

The PEIS includes an analysis of potential cumulative impacts of the proposed action in combination with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions within a 50-mile radius of the ULP lease tracts. This analysis follows a methodology that is consistent with CEQ guidelines. DOE believes that the cumulative analysis presented in Section 4.7 is adequate to support its identification of Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Clow, Scott, Commenter ID No. T51 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

83

1 vanadium. And that facility has essentially been
2 turned into a national sacrifice area. They ship
3 waste materials, 11e.(2) byproduct material,
4 regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
5 there. They make money for taking that stuff and
6 they make money for extracting some uranium and
7 vanadium out of it.

8 The reason I mention that is this program
9 follows a scheme that we see in a lot of EIS
10 documents where we look at a very single, okay,
11 we're looking at this Uravan Belt and leasing
12 programs on it. We are not seeing the big picture.
13 We need to consider the comprehensive impacts of a
14 program like this. It's not just here in San
15 Miguel County. It's not just San Juan County,
16 Utah.

17 The people I work for in my day job are
18 averse to hearings like this, although I suspect
19 they will comment. They were displaced from their
20 homeland by this industry in the first couple
21 rounds of lease programs that were described in the
22 presentation, and they don't live there anymore.
23 There's an old mill site that's still very
24 radioactive. If you run a Geiger counter over it,
25 it goes wild. And that's -- they don't want to be

T51-1
(Cont.)

T51-2

T51-2 See response to T51-1.

Clow, Scott, Commenter ID No. T51 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

84

1 there anymore.

2 So I just wanted to say: You need to
3 consider a cradle-to-grave -- no pun intended --
4 cumulative impact beyond this small region. You
5 need to consider the ramifications of the entire
6 industry. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: We have one more
8 gentleman up there. Please introduce yourself,
9 sir.

10 NICHOLAS YOHO-WIKSE: Hello. My
11 name is Nicholas Yoho-Wikse. I grew up near the
12 Nevada test site in Las Vegas and also in
13 California. I've lived in this area quite a few
14 years. I have worked at La Cocina restaurant here
15 and with a green building firm, Steeprock Joinery,
16 for several years and with the Galloping Goose and
17 volunteering for the adaptive ski program for four
18 or five years. I have some humble residences here
19 as well as in other states and countries.

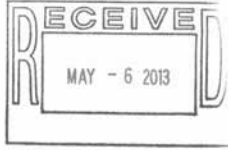
20 I'm here representing basically interests
21 of a few of my own companies and other end-stage
22 consumers of uranium products in the medical,
23 energy, weaponry, and other areas of uranium
24 consumers. We feel this -- the interests I
25 represent feel this is an ideal spot for the mining

T51-2
(Cont.)

Collins, Kami, Commenter ID No. L25

April 22nd, 2013

Ray Plienness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



Re: Uranium leasing

Mr. Plienness,

American energy security and independence is a topic that is extremely important to many Americans, and one that many of us feel should be a top priority of the U.S. government. Your Preferred Alternative in this Uranium Leasing Program EIS helps contribute to the attainment of that independence, and for that I wish to extend my thanks and support.

The United States currently imports more than 90% of its uranium from other countries. There are several reasons why that is a bad idea:

First, we have enough uranium here at home to meet our needs. The U.S. is home to several hundred thousand tons of uranium ore – which we know about. That is enough to at least begin to decrease our dependency on foreign sources from places like China and Russia.

Second, with unemployment still high in many parts of the Four Corners regions, developing that resource would put Americans back to work. The region is one that is well-steeped in mining history and culture. The people here are naturally hard working, and are proud of the contributions we make to the nation's energy supply.

Third, the price of uranium is predicted to go up considerably in the coming years, as more nuclear plants come back online, demand rises, and countries begin to save their native supplies for their own use.

Fourth, nuclear power is a clean, zero-carbon energy source, the use of which should be encouraged as a bridge fuel – if not the energy source of the future. Nuclear power does not contribute to global climate change, and can safely provide millions with reliable electricity for years. The stock for this energy should come from us, not from an overseas competitor.

L25-1

L25-1

Comment noted. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

L25-2

L25-2

DOE considered all public comment received and the results of the PEIS evaluations in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative for the ULP.

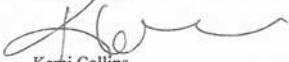
Collins, Kami, Commenter ID No. L25 (Cont.)

Finally, Americans have the ability to mine and process this uranium in a much cleaner and responsible manner than many of the overseas suppliers might – places like Namibia, Russia, and Kazakhstan. It would be better for the environment as a whole if this mining were to take place under the regulatory structure, social pressures, and technologically innovative environment that exists in the United States.

We may or may not have enough uranium here at home to completely replace all foreign sources, but developing our own resources would put our nation in a much better position to negotiate prices, manage supplies, react to external events, and simply steer our own ship when it comes to providing the raw material for our energy needs.

With all of these points in mind, I ask the Department of Energy to select a management alternative for these lands that represents the best and highest use, provides the most benefits for the American people, and promotes American energy security – that clearly means adopting Alternative 4.

Thank you,



Kami Collins
2745 Tessman Road
Delta, CO 81416

L25-2
(Cont.)

Collins, Mark, Commenter ID No. T13

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

45

1 but a boondoggle, that uranium business is nothing but
2 the taxpayer boondoggle, because all of these
3 companies are getting subsidized either by the
4 Canadian government or our government. And I, as a
5 taxpayer, am tired of paying for these companies to
6 exist. They need to be standalones, support
7 themselves.

8 And I think Eric made a mistake when he said
9 it should be a \$2 million bond. I think he meant to
10 say \$2 billion bond.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Benita.

12 And Mark Collins?

13 MARK COLLINS: I have six questions for
14 everybody to consider and not to be answered now.

15 Does radioactive material cause DNA in
16 people to mutate? Can radioactive material become a
17 lot more dangerous than radioactive from carbon
18 monoxide gas, similar to volcanic elements originally?

19 If there is a natural disaster at a large
20 nuclear waste dump, such as a volcanic eruption, could
21 all life on the planet be gone?

22 If one tiny radioactive particle becomes
23 attached to a person or is inside of a person, will
24 that particle remain radioactive and cause cancer?

25 Why does a nuclear plant scan employees for



T13-1

T13-1 Radioactive material has the potential to cause mutations in DNA. A discussion with further references can be found at <http://lowdose.energy.gov/faqs.aspx> under the heading "What are the genetic effects of ionizing radiation?" A range of elements, including carbon, have radioactive isotopes. The radioactive decay of an element can emit alpha, beta, gamma, and/or neutron radiation. The radioactive decay of some elements is more dangerous than for carbon and some are less dangerous.

Generally, natural disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanoes cause widespread human health hazards and physical damage that dwarf any secondary effects such as disruption of utilities, damage to infrastructure, and hazardous material spills or leaks. A volcanic eruption could result in some release of radioactive material to the atmosphere. It is likely that most life on the planet would still be present.

Until all radioactive atoms in that particle decay, that particle remains radioactive. However, that particle will not necessarily cause cancer. Human bodies are naturally radioactive because of common elements such as radioactive potassium, carbon, and other elements in the environment that we eat, drink, and breath. Further discussion on this subject with references can be found at <http://hps.org/publicinformation/ate/faqs/faqradbods.html>.

Nuclear plant employees are scanned to ensure that they are not contaminated with radioactive material if an accidental leak at the facility were to occur. It is one component of a nuclear plant's safety program to protect workers and the public.

Uranium is a natural radioactive element as discussed in Section 3.5.1.1 of the PEIS. All isotopes of uranium eventually decay to form radioactive isotopes of other elements. The radioactive decay of radioactive material in medical machines or scanning machines does not result in explosions.

Collins, Mark, Commenter ID No. T13 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

46

1 radiation contamination?

2 Can uranium or any radioactive material in
3 medical machines or scanning machines become another
4 element, still radioactive and unstable, that could
5 explode those radioactive particles? In other words,
6 can uranium become another natural radioactive
7 element?

8 These are questions that might be answered,
9 however, without provable records with the public
10 directly involved in those records established. The
11 records or answers are not believable, at least to me.

12 If there is a group or individual that would
13 like to talk to me afterwards for solutions to
14 radioactive material and to assist the Government, we
15 can do that.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mark.

17 And now we're going to hear from Penny
18 Hills.

19 PENNY HILLS: I don't have a prepared
20 statement.

21 MR. CAMERON: You don't need to have a
22 prepared statement. If you want to offer your
23 thoughts and feelings, that's fine too.

24 PENNY HILLS: I would like to say that at
25 the moment I don't have a job. I used to have a job

T13-1
(Cont.)





DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D) U.S. Department of Energy

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. X Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___ Name: SUMMER COLT Title: COLORADO RESIDENT Organization: NON-AFFILIATED Address: City: State: Zip Code: Phone: (970) 275-0280 E-Mail Address: summercolt@gmail.com

Comment: I FULLY SUPPORT THE COMPLETE TERMINATION OF ANY & ALL URANIUM/VALDAMUM MINING IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO & THE WORLD @ LARGE. I DO NOT SUPPORT WAR OR THE NEED TO HAVE URANIUM FOR DEFENSE REASONS. THE LANDS THAT HAVE BEEN MINED IN THE UTAH AREA NEED TO BE RECLAIMED & REPAIRED. I ONLY SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY MEASURES & EXPLORATION. THE LANDS UNDER QUESTION MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TAXPAYERS & ANY URANIUM LEASES, TERMINATED. ->

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record. Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to: Mr. Ray Plieness DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager Office of Legacy Management U.S. Department of Energy 11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000 Westminster, CO 80021

Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to: ulpeis@anl.gov

L8-1 L8-2 L8-3

- L8-1 Comment noted. L8-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS. L8-3 DOE considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Colt, Summer, Commenter ID No. L8 (Cont.)

I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE #1

L8-3
(Cont.)

THE COST OF DEALING WITH THE WASTE BY-PRODUCTS IS NEVER INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE URANIUM MILLED.

L8-4

L8-4

Discussion of mill tailings disposal and associated cost is outside the scope of this PEIS.

I FULLY SUPPORT PUTTING THE URANIUM TAILINGS BACK INTO THE MINES THEY CAME FROM!

I SUPPORT THAT JOBS CAN BE CREATED IN RECLAMATION OF THE EXISTING OLD MINING SITES & THOSE SITES CAN BE USED FOR WIND & SOLAR ENERGIES.

L8-5

L8-5

See response to L8-2 as far as jobs for reclamation; and the evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

IF WE KEEP SUPPORTING THE DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET THERE WILL BE NO PLANET LEFT TO MINE.

Congour, David, Commenter ID No. E28

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Energy vs. Nuclear
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:51:13 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Dave Congour [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:26 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Energy vs. Nuclear

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I own a solar thermal heating company, Colorado Clean Energy Systems, LLC. I believe in developing the only safe source of nuclear energy, that of the Sun. Ultra-reliable, isolated by 93 million miles, and with no nuclear waste issues, the Sun provides more than enough energy to supply all of our energy needs, if we simply commit ourselves to using it.

Most of the arguments against solar come from naysayers who benefit from the status quo, or are ignorant of energy issues. As an engineer, I see harvesting solar energy as simply a technical challenge.

I know that DOE was founded to deal with nuclear energy and weaponry. I also know that it has had a long and hard road changing it from the original cold war mindset.

As a resident of Montrose, Colorado, I am aware of the severe pollution problems that inevitably accompany the process of removing toxic minerals from underground. I believe that the process of mining uranium in western Colorado is primarily in the interest of those who would make money off of the it, and not for the residents of western Colorado.

If we truly want clean and safe energy, along with all of the jobs that such energy systems would create, it's time for DOE to get off of the nuclear bandwagon, and put more talented staff into backing the growing but struggling solar industry.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Sincerely,

David Congour
Owner, Colorado Clean Energy Systems, LLC www.ccenrg.com

Dave Congour

E28-1

E28-1

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

E28-2

E28-2

See response to E28-1.

Congour, David, Commenter ID No. E93

From: [Dave Congour](#)
To: [mail_ulp@peis](#)
Subject: Promote solar energy, not toxic energy
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 6:32:48 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I own a small solar thermal company in western Colorado (www.ccenrg.com). It so happens that it's 98 degrees outside, and the sun is beating down with such intensity that everyone in our state is doing all they can to get out of the sun. Doesn't it make sense to use this otherwise wasted energy, rather than digging up our pristine lands, spreading around the most toxic minerals known to mankind, and spending obscene amounts of money to utilize the uranium once it has been processed, only then having to rebury it for eternity because the byproducts are so toxic?

If small solar energy companies such as mine received a tiny fraction of the money that is spent in the nuclear industry on obtaining energy from uranium, we could provide most of the energy needed to run our economy. Yes, there is the "storage problem", but it is simply an engineering challenge. Local solar energy initiatives contribute to distributed energy systems, rather than large, centralized power systems. I was once an engineer with Western Area Power Administration, and know how tenuous our power grid is. Decentralized power increases energy security in a world prone to vandalism and terrorism (not to mention increasing forest fires).

I am also a member of the Uncompahgre Valley Association, which has tracked the issues surrounding toxic waste resulting from the previous uranium booms of the last century. We simply don't need more of our lands ruined by toxic mine tailings.

Please put me down in opposition to the continued leasing of public lands for uranium mining.

Thank you
David J. Congour
Montrose, Colorado.

Dave Congour

E93-1

E93-1 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

E93-2

E93-2 Comment noted.

Coombs, Mary, Commenter ID No. E37

From: Mary Coombs
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 11:47:48 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Mary Coombs

E37-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E37-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E37-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E37-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Coombs, Mary, Commenter ID No. E37 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E37-5 See responses to E37-1 and E37-2.

Cooper, Hilary, Commenter ID No. T47

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 purpose. They were intended for use by the public.
2 That use being natural resource development and
3 production. Back in the day, recreation really
4 wasn't that much of a consideration, but they are
5 there for recreation, for hiking, hunting, fishing,
6 et cetera. And I know the miners, they don't have
7 a problem with the hunting and fishing and bike
8 riding.

9 So it just amazes me that the
10 recreationists, who want to come in every once in a
11 while, insist that there be no other disturbance so
12 they can enjoy their pristine playgrounds, which
13 these grounds aren't pristine. They're just BLM
14 grounds that are intended for multiple purpose.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.
17 And next we're going to hear from Hilary Cooper.

18 HILARY COOPER: My name is Hilary
19 Cooper. I'm the director of Sheep Mountain
20 Alliance and we are submitting extensive comments
21 as well, so I will keep my comments short.

22 I want to say thank you very much to all
23 the very well-articulated comments that have been
24 stated tonight. Wow. You guys are all very well
25 informed and passionate about this area. And I



T47-1

T47-1 Comment noted.

Cooper, Hilary, Commenter ID No. T47 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 also want to thank Paul and Glen for coming. This
2 is a tough audience. I have been in the inverse
3 before, and it's very difficult to speak and I
4 appreciate your opinions. We all have different
5 opinions but we are all allowed our opinion.

6 I will say that the documents -- I have
7 been plowing my way through them -- will serve as
8 very informative data for future information.
9 They're very thorough in their presentation of
10 potential impacts and some of the activities that
11 are going on out there.

12 I will say that the follow-through,
13 taking that data and translating it into potential
14 impacts was woefully inadequate, and that's why we
15 ask that you guys go back to the drawing table and
16 take another look at your data, including the Fish
17 and Wildlife information that has come recently to
18 you, which could have been gathered from what was
19 in your document in the first place, and go back
20 and do another analysis with a more thorough set of
21 alternatives.

22 I'm going to try to keep my comments
23 specific to the PEIS and its shortcomings. First,
24 remediation. Clean it up when you mess it up.
25 We're all taught that lesson in kindergarten.

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T47-1
(Cont.)

T47-2

T47-2

DOE considers the evaluation to be adequate in supporting all five alternatives in the range of reasonable alternatives discussed. PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

T47-3

T47-3

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Lease agreements in place contain requirements for reclamation of existing and future permitted mines on the ULP lease tracts.

Cooper, Hilary, Commenter ID No. T47 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 Who's responsible for the cleanup?
2 Ultimately, as I understand, in places like New
3 Mexico and Arizona, because these have been federal
4 programs, the mining companies, the mining
5 industry, is allowed to walk away, because they are
6 federal programs. So they are being challenged in
7 court, but ultimately they will probably be allowed
8 to walk away, and the federal taxpayers will be
9 responsible for cleanup.

10 The remediation, you really need to look
11 at your best management practices and work on some
12 very specific measurable outcomes that actually
13 clean up contamination. It's not too difficult to
14 go out to those sites right now and see with our
15 eyes that they are not cleaned up. If we can see
16 the contamination that's happening on those sites,
17 it would even be more obvious that those sites have
18 not been cleaned up.

19 If a site is in violation of the Clean
20 Water Act, is that remediated? I'm having a hard
21 time making that connection there. But you claim
22 remediation for those sites. They are not
23 remediated. Cleaning it up will also bring jobs to
24 the region, which would be good for everyone.

25 Permanent withdraw, you don't have any

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T47-3
(Cont.)

E47-4

T47-4

DOE considered the potential impacts to the Dolores River in the PEIS evaluations and has also included a mitigation measure for a quarter mile buffer from the Dolores River of any future mining activities. DOE does not consider the permanent withdrawal of any of the 31 lease tracts from the ULP to be within the range of reasonable alternatives that meets the purpose and need discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS.

Cooper, Hilary, Commenter ID No. T47 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 options for permanent withdraw in -- specifically,
2 on Sheep Mountain Alliance's behalf, for the river
3 parcels on the Dolores River and other ecologically
4 sensitive lands. I think Jennifer Thurston did an
5 excellent job commenting on the overall impacts to
6 the -- from the other parcels. We are most
7 concerned with the Dolores River parcels, and we
8 ask that you consider an alternative that would
9 permanently withdraw, not just withdraw and
10 transfer to the BLM or hold for future use.
11 Permanently withdraw from resource extraction and
12 clean up.

13 Consider renewables as a cleaner, safer
14 energy option. These are ultimately going to be
15 brown fields. Really no ecological system,
16 services are going to be able to be restored on
17 these sites. We should be considering
18 alternatives. You guys are the Department of
19 Energy, not just the department of uranium, so
20 let's consider other energy sources for these sites
21 that will also bring immediate jobs to the region.

22 Reserves. This is not going to be a very
23 popular opinion with everybody around here, but we
24 are just trying to address specifically your
25 purpose and need, because I understand, as a

T47-4
(Cont.)

T47-5

T47-5 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

T47-6

T47-6 Alternative 1 does evaluate leaving the uranium ore in the ground.

Cooper, Hilary, Commenter ID No. T47 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 government agency, that's what you're tasked with.
2 We need to -- we encourage you to reserve the
3 uranium ore in the ground where it can be safely
4 stored and possibly considered for future, real
5 domestic need. I have noted in all your documents
6 that your purpose and need is for domestic supply.
7 We know dang well -- I think Glen even admits --
8 that this uranium will be taken out of the ground
9 and shipped to Canada and make its way wherever.

10 MR. CAMERON: And, Hilary, could you
11 wrap up for us, please.

12 HILARY COOPER: Really?

13 MR. CAMERON: Yeah, it's been...

14 HILARY COOPER: So keep it here,
15 keep it in the ground for future need if there is a
16 future need. Taxpayers right now are paying for
17 the DOE to store and manage already existing ore
18 supplies and a recycling program.

19 Royalties, you mentioned the royalties.
20 I believe what you meant was the payment in lieu of
21 program. You're not actually receiving those
22 royalties right now. You're getting -- you're
23 allowing for people not to pay their annual
24 royalties in lieu of a remediation program.

25 Climate change, I mean, I could go on

T47-6
(Cont.)

T47-6
(Cont.)

T47-7

T47-7 As a clarification, DOE is not receiving royalties during the period of the court injunction. Before the injunction, DOE approved reclamation on some lease tracts in lieu of royalties.

T47-8

T47-8 Climate change was evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1) in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) generated by the ULP proposed action for the five alternatives, respectively. The results indicate that the ULP proposed action contributes a very small percentage to both Colorado, and U.S. GHG generated (up to 0.03% and 0.0005%, respectively). U.S. GHG emissions account for about one-fifth of global GHG emissions, and GHG emissions from ULP proposed action are up to about 0.0001%. The amount of GHG generated is generally used as a measure of the potential impacts on climate change. In contrast, ULP operations (followed by power generations at nuclear power plants) would displace considerable amounts of criteria and toxic air pollutants, and GHG emissions that would otherwise be released from fossil power plants. Accordingly, ULP operations would contribute to more positive impacts than adverse impacts on climate change. The text in the PEIS has been revised (see the same sections mentioned previously) to explain further how potential impacts from climate change were evaluated for the PEIS and what the results mean.

Cooper, Hilary, Commenter ID No. T47 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 forever. That wasn't really adequately addressed
2 at all.

3 The Dolores River, it's iconic, it's
4 scenic, it's the most important river ecosystem in
5 an arid, drought-impacted region. It supplies
6 water to the Colorado River. The Colorado River is
7 currently the most endangered river in the U.S.
8 This is a huge impact to the Dolores River, and you
9 have got to do a better job considering all of your
10 information.

11 MR. CAMERON: Could you finish up.

12 HILARY COOPER: We ask that you go
13 back, conduct a more thorough evaluation of all the
14 information you have put together, do some
15 fieldwork on the ground, fieldwork on the sites
16 that exist, and come back to us with a more
17 thorough analysis with better alternatives. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Hilary.
20 Summer Colt?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

22 MR. CAMERON: How about Allison
23 Wolff?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I believe she had
25 to leave too.

T47-8
(Cont.)

T47-9

T47-9

The PEIS evaluates the potential for impact to the Dolores, San Miguel, and Colorado Rivers and the aquatic biota inhabiting those rivers. Measures to minimize potential impacts of ULP activities are provided in Table 4.6-1, which includes measures to avoid and minimize impacts to waterbodies and aquatic habitats for aquatic biota (see measures M-4 and M-7). As discussed in Section 4.3.6.1 and Table 4.6-1 (see M-4), impacts on the Dolores River and other jurisdictional streams within lease tracts would not likely be directly affected because mines would be required to be located at a distance from these streams (e.g., 1,300 ft [0.25 mi]). A Biological Assessment (BA) has been prepared for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA (including the Colorado River endangered fish species). PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

T47-10

T47-10

DOE considers the PEIS evaluation to be adequate in supporting decisions regarding the five alternatives in the range of reasonable alternatives. Site-specific information that has been incorporated provides adequate characterization of the ULP lease tracts.

Cort, George, Commenter ID No. W7

Thank you for your comment, George Cort.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50007.

Comment Date: April 20, 2013 18:57:04PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50007

First Name: George
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: Cort
Organization:
Address: 16960 Wildwood Dr.
Address 2:
Address 3: 16960 Wildwood Dr.
City: Montrose
State: CO
Zip: 81403
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I support alternative 4. I am a graduate engineer familiar nuclear energy issues and am convinced that the mining can be done with very little damage to the environment. But it will provide many needed jobs in a depressed area as well as tax revenue. Furthermore, the uranium produced will provide clean energy with no greenhouse gas. I do not understand the reasons for the objections of the so-called environmental groups.

W7-1

W7-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Cort, George, Commenter ID No. W14

Thank you for your comment, George Cort.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50014.

Comment Date: May 24, 2013 15:37:17PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50014

First Name: George
Middle Initial: E
Last Name: Cort
Organization:
Address: 16960 Wildwood Dr.
Address 2:
Address 3: 16960 Wildwood Dr.
City: Montrose
State:
Zip:
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Add to # ULPD50007. I also support alt. 5. I attended the Montrose meeting. I heard no verbal statements that negatively addressed environment, the EIS or the mining project. Instead the statements concerned economics and the market and alternative supplies of uranium. These issues are not the concern of the DOE or the environment but are the risks undertaken by the mining company. Potential environmental impacts of alternatives 4 and 5 are small and can be dealt with- benefits are very great.

W14-1

W14-1 See response to W7-1.

Cort, George, Commenter ID No. W18

Thank you for your comment, George Cort.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50018.

Comment Date: June 7, 2013 18:14:24PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50018

First Name: George
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Cort
Organization:
Address: 16960 Wildwood Dr.
Address 2:
Address 3: 16960 Wildwood Dr.
City: Montrose
State: CO
Zip: 81403
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I am a past member of the Sierra Club and New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water (NMCCAW). I was a chapter chairman and wrote newspaper columns in support of NMCCAW's positions. The organization was very successful in bringing about the control of emissions from the coal-fired Four Corners Power Plant. I learned, much to my disappointment that others in those two organizations were much more interested in liberal politics than in environmental progress. I attended the Montrose meeting on April 23rd and heard no rational opposition to the favored alternatives 4 and 5. It was surprising to me as well to hear very little fear mongering from the opponents. Perhaps there was more of that in Telluride, in recognition of the fact that Montrose residents are well-informed and not susceptible to such tactics as fear mongering. I reiterate my support for alternatives 4 and 5.

W18-1

W18-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Coulter, Sara, Commenter ID No. E65

From: Sara Coulter
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 10:38:19 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Sara Coulter

E65-1

E65-2

E65-3

E65-4

E65-5

E65-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E65-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E65-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E65-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Coulter, Sara, Commenter ID No. E65 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E65-5 See responses to E65-1 and E65-2.

Crawford, Dave, Commenter ID No. T27

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 recreation and the potential with cleaning the
2 environment, there also is a potential for jobs coming
3 from clean energy development, which would nicely
4 coexist with the conditions of the legacy of the
5 previous mining operations. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for those remarks.
7 Okay. Dave? Dave Crawford?



8 DAVE CRAWFORD: My name is Dave Crawford;
9 I'm a resident of Montrose. I come to these meetings
10 frequently; I hear people coming up with some
11 interesting ideas. No one mines uranium because of
12 the pleasure of going underground and extracting
13 minerals. They go there because there's an economic
14 viability. That's the only conceivable reason why
15 anybody would go underground.

16 And the processes that are taking place are
17 extraordinary. People who are mining right now are
18 trying to stay ahead of it, because they know there
19 are new regulations heading their way.

20 The mine up here that mines coal has got two
21 shelves, six feet long; two shelves with six feet
22 each. Coal. Imagine what uranium has got. Okay.
23 Yeah.

24 I just can't imagine why we're still
25 speaking as though we're back in the '60s or the '70s.

T27-1

T27-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Crawford, Dave, Commenter ID No. T27 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 When I was on the board with the environmentalists, I
2 believed it was a really good idea. I see
3 environmental (inaudible) the political sector, and
4 has nothing to do with the sweet little animal we've
5 got to protect or whatever it is they come up with.
6 It's moot. It's now political.

7 We went from peace movement and antiwar
8 movement to antiadministration movement to the
9 antigovernment movement to the antimilitary movement
10 to the antiAmerican movement. That's where we are,
11 and the environmental movement is part of it. Trust
12 me, I was one of them. Thank you.

13 Wayne?

14 WAYNE QUADE: Thank you. Well, good evening
15 everybody. I'm a resident of Montrose, and I've
16 worked with environmentalists in my past job. Two
17 things that I'd just like to bring out and discuss, or
18 have discussed, basically involve the costs and
19 remediation.

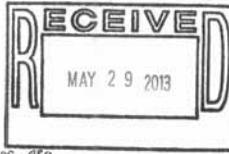
20 As far as the cost, I'm talking about the
21 fact that these leases are far too cheap. They do not
22 consider the environmental cost to both the community
23 and the environment. And we're not recouping what we
24 could recoup through the -- really the fire sale
25 prices that they're offering these leases.

T27-1
(Cont.)



Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37

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May 20, 2013

Subject: Comments on the Draft PEIS for the Uranium Leasing Program

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Enclosed are our comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Uranium Leasing Program (ULP). As landowners of a 280-acre tract one mile north of the former town of Slick Rock, Colorado, we provided scoping comments for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the ULP on November 13, 2005. On August 6, 2006, we provided 11 pages of comments on the draft PEA for the ULP. And on August 29, 2011, we provide 6 pages of scoping comments in advance of the current Draft PEIS for the ULP.

Below we will begin by expressing concerns about our health and happiness at our residence, and the health of our land. Then we will deal with an ongoing concern that the DOE has missed a critically important alternative, because the DOE has overly simplified its purpose and need statement – seemingly to the point of being illegal. Finally, we will discuss a major effect of alternative 2 that is missing from the analyses. Owing to a lack of time, we forego discussing effects on the Dolores River Special Recreation Management Area and the potential Dolores River Canyon National Conservation Area, and we limit our specific points to lease tracts that are near the former town of Slick Rock.

Within T44N, R19W, we own the West Half of the East Half of Section 24, the NE of the SE of Section 24, the NE of the NW of Section 24, and the SE of the SW of Section 13. Our permanent residence is located in the northeastern 10 acres of the NW of the SE of Section 24. Our residence lies 1.2 air miles north of the center of the true location of the former town of Slick Rock. And by the way, the DPEIS consistently depicts the former town of Slick Rock as being 1 air mile east of its true location. For example, Figure 3.3-10 shows the former town as being across the Dolores River from the mouth of Burro Canyon, but in reality the center of the town was one mile west of there at the intersection of county road S8 and county road Q1, with the town's biggest buildings having been southwest of that road intersection.

L37-1

L37-1

The location of Slick Rock has been revised for Figure 3.3-10 based on geo-located (i.e., same as Google Earth) information.

Concern Over Potential Radon and Other Radionuclides at Our Residence

Lease tract 13A lies immediately east and southeast of the southern half of our land, and in fact DOE's Uranium Reserve includes the minerals under the southern 120-acres of our property. Our residence is located from 0.4 mile to 1.0 mile from historical mine portals within lease tract 13A. The prevailing winds tend to flow from these historical portals toward our house. The winds within the lower canyon tend to follow the direction of the river, and so run from south toward north along the southern portion of lease tract 13A within the canyon. Then, near the northern portion of the lease tract within the canyon, the prevailing wind tends to shift and blow from the east to the west, following the bend in the canyon directly toward our house. During the nights when the general winds cease, air slides down the sides of the canyon over the mine portals and then flows along the canyon bottom to our house. In short, the prevailing winds, as well as nighttime cold air drainage, take air from the vicinity of portals near the bottom of the Morrison Formation and move the air over our house. According to Table 2.4-6, radiation from radionuclides from the exhaust of just a medium sized mine could easily exceed the EPA's allowable limit for exposure at a residence when the residence is within one mile of the source and downwind from the source (up to 16 mrem/yr, as compared to the EPA maximum allowable of 10 mrem/yr). The bottom of page 4-94 of the DPEIS states: "at a distance of 3,300 feet (1000 m) from a small underground mine, the maximum dose was calculated to be 35.7 mrem/yr", and the first paragraph of page 4-95 states that doses from a medium sized mine would be two times higher and doses from a large mine would be 4 times higher. The Veta Mad Mine is a medium-sized mine only 3200 feet from our house, so if it is operated we could receive at our house seven (7!) times EPA's allowable dose of 10 mrem/yr. We had no idea that uranium mining could pose such danger when we purchased our property in 1995.

The radon mitigation measures to protect nearby residents (measures M-11 in Table 4.6-1) call for monitoring actual radon emissions and then modeling radon exposure to the closest residence by using COMPLY-R as required by 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart B. Measures M-11 in Table 4.6-1 also describe several methods to send the radon gas elsewhere. One method is to reroute the ventilation of the radon gas. It is obvious that a significant portion of radon gas that would be vented into the canyon from a mine within lease tract 13A would reach our house. **Rather than waiting to measure a bad outcome and damaging our health in the meantime, we demand that all radon gases during mine development and operations in lease tract 13A be vented to sites above and east of the top of the highest cliffs, where there is no residence and little human use of any type.** There is already at least one airshaft above and east of the top of the highest cliffs in lease tract 13A, and these cliffs are 1,000 feet higher than our house. If that airshaft is used to exhaust the radon -- while the mine portals within the canyon at the base of the Morrison Formation and other shafts within the canyon are used as air intakes -- then the radon to our house and land will be minimal. Please add the above mitigation measure as a preemptive solution against radon gas at our residence from mine development and operations within lease tract 13A.

L37-2

L37-2

The estimates for radon are based on conservative assumptions and input data in order to bound potential impacts from the proposed action. However, implementation of the proposed action would be undertaken in such a manner as to assure compliance with regulatory requirements. Mitigation measures would also be implemented to further reduce the potential impacts.

L37-3

L37-3

The measure discussed by the commenter is embodied in the measures identified in M-11 in Table 4.6-1 that are identified as compliance measures (i.e., required by law and would have to be implemented), however, the actual method to be implemented would be determined on case-by-case basis.

Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37 (Cont.)

Crocker-Bedford's Comments on the Draft PEIS for the ULP

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Mitigation measure M-11 also includes covering waste rock with soil at the time of reclamation to prevent radionuclides from blowing off site. However, the Draft PEIS has no mitigation measure to protect nearby residences from radionuclides blowing from waste rock or ore during mining operations. **We ask that the PEIS include a mitigation measure that requires lightly sprinkling with water – or ideally using a hydromulch or wax or other barrier – over the mined ore and mine waste rock during operations, when a residence is downwind less than 1 mile.**

Lease tract 15 is as little as only 0.7 mile west of our residence. However, the mine portals in lease tract 15 are all at least 1.0 mile west of our residence. Moreover, the mine portals (and we assume airshafts) are all far higher than our residence and are not within the well-defined canyon, so we doubt that overly high radionuclides would reach our house from lease tracts 15 or 15A. Nevertheless, we appreciate the mitigation measure M-11 in Table 4.6-1, to “Model the dose to the nearest member of the public by using COMPLY-R, as required by 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart B.” Page 4-95 of the DPEIS notes that if more than one mine is being operated in the vicinity of a residence, then the modeling of health effects and EPA compliance must be the sum or the effects of the two or more mines.

Concern Over Radionuclides Washing onto Our Property and Into the Dolores River

The reclaimed waste rock sites within lease tract 13A currently exhibit gamma radiation levels that are mostly above 70 uR/hr and are commonly above 100 uR/hr, with the highest reading being 287 uR/hr (letter and attachment by Glen Williams of Cotter Corporation to Dustin Czaplá of the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, dated April 16, 2013). These measurements are several to many times above the ambient baseline gamma radiation of 13 uR/hr in the Slick Rock area (DOE's 1995 EA for Remedial Action at the Slick Rock Uranium Mill Tailings). The mapped high readings in the attachment to Mr. William's letter usually end abruptly with blank mapping, which suggest to us that additional contamination down hill and down wind of the measured locations were simply not measured. Many times we have seen muddy water pouring from lease tract 13A onto our property, and muddy water from lease tract 13A pouring into the Dolores River. In several places the Draft PEIS seems to assert that having a ¼ mile buffer between mining activities and the Dolores River will prevent the flow of sediment and radionuclides into the river during storm events. This statement might be true if the Slick Rock area had very dense grasses and dense organic matter, through which storm water flowed over shallow gradients. However, the Slick Rock area (above the river's floodplain) is highly dominated by rock and bare ground and steep slopes. Rock and bare ground do not stop sediment, especially given the steep gradients. In fact, rock and bare ground induce stormwater sediment to collect into channels and quickly run downhill to the Dolores River, and we personally have many times observed this at tracts 13 and 13A. In the case of tract 13A, some of the mud from storm events runs onto our property. **Rather than relying only on a ¼ mile buffer to protect the Dolores River, the PEIS needs to require stormwater sediment catchments below mine ore piles, and even below waste rock sites in tract 13A.** And based on the radiation at the reclaimed waste rock sites (see above), as well as our personal

L37-4

L37-4

Air emissions such as fugitive dust may be covered by a permit issued by CDPHE. Where such permits are not needed or required, CDRMS requires an operator to control dust if it has the potential to be hazardous. CRS 34-32-116(i) states all surface areas of the affected lands, including spoils piles, shall be stabilized and protected so as to effectively control erosion and attendant air and water pollution.

L37-5

L37-5

Comment noted.

L37-6

L37-6

Cotter Corporation's C-SR-13A mine was reclaimed in 2003. The waste rock pile was re-contoured, the available surface soil material (limited amount) was spread across the disturbed area, and it was reseeded. The site stabilized fairly quickly, except for one or two major storm events that caused some minor rilling through the site. Three other legacy mine sites on the lease tract were reclaimed by DOE in a similar fashion. As the commenter alludes, the whole area has limited vegetation and is quite susceptible to erosion during significant storm events. The area is also host to multiple uranium-bearing geologic formations that crop out on the surface and have been eroding away naturally for centuries. Inevitably, some mining related radiological contamination has been transported down stream by past storm events, but some of it also is naturally occurring.

The runoff from lease tract C-SR-15 is a similar situation. Approximately 350 acres of land is drained by the drainages that the commentor mentions. The mines on the lease tract are surface mines or shallow underground mines, because the ore-bearing formation in the area crops out all along Cougar point. Accordingly, storm water from significant storm events has and will likely continue to carry radiological contamination (mining-related and naturally occurring) downslope and downstream.

Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37 (Cont.)

Crocker-Bedford's Comments on the Draft PEIS for the ULP

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observation that some reclaimed sites have had much of the placed top soil washed away thereby exposing the waste rock, and have small gullies cutting into the waste rock, it seems that **even reclaimed waste rock sites need stormwater sediment catchments below them.**

In addition, stormwater sediment catchments need to be large enough and deep enough to actually collect the water and sediment during storm events. The catchment below the active mine in lease tract 11 has filled in until it could now hold a pool of water and sediment of only about 25 feet diameter and only 18 inches deep at its deepest, which is far too little to collect the potential stormwater sediment runoff from that mine site.

While many times we have actually witnessed muddy water pouring from lease tracts 13 and 13A, several locations within the southwestern ten acres of the SW of the SE of Section 24 within our property have been mildly contaminated by uranium ore or waste rock from the Cougar Mine (which is 0.9 air mile away in lease tract 15), according to two DOE reports and survey map enclosed with the March 27, 1996, letter to us from Steven C. Hamp of the Department of Energy. Most of the elevated gamma radiation readings are only 10 uR/hr above background, though DOE measured one location at 70 uR/hr above background. The DOE reports also showed that the contamination measured at the several locations on our property ranged from 5 to 14 pCi/gram of soil, and occurred in a swale. It seems very likely that the slot canyon on BLM land (immediately south of county road Q1), which transported the residual mine ore and waste to our property and the private property south of ours, has much higher readings than our property. In short, stormwater transport of mine waste and ore has occurred, despite past ULP requirements to prevent transport of radionuclides during storm events.

L37-6
(Cont.)

Water in Nearby Domestic Wells

We agree with the DPEIS that it is unlikely that contamination will occur in domestic water wells in the Slick Rock area, because the domestic wells tend to pump from the Navajo Formation while the uranium mining is in the Morrison Formation several hundred feet higher. Nevertheless, we would like to see a mitigation measure that states: **if a domestic water well is polluted by uranium mining activities, then clean water will forever more be trucked to a holding tank for that residence, free of charge to the residents.**

L37-7

L37-7 Measures are identified for water protection. DOE will address the suggested mitigation measure on a case-by-case basis consistent with state law.

Concern over Noise at Our Residence

In many places the DPEIS asserts that no residence will be subjected to noise louder than the Colorado State standard of 55 dBA during the day and 50 dBA during the night. However, the operational measures to assure this level (measures M-3 on page 4-253 of the DPEIS) are all listed as merely BMP's, which are defined as practices "generally implemented within the industry to conserve resources" but "are not necessarily required by DOE". **The existing measures M-3 should be changed from BMP's to required Mitigation Measures.**

L37-8

L37-8 This mitigation measure has been added as a compliance mesasure. See Table 4.6-1 in M-3.

Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37 (Cont.)

Although on the one hand the DPEIS seems to require meeting the Colorado State noise standards for nearby residences, in other places the DPEIS states that the State Standards could be exceeded. For example, the bottom of page 4-189 states: "when construction would occur near a lease tract boundary, noise levels at four residences around Lease Tracts 13, 13A, 16, and 16A could exceed the Colorado limit." Similarly, page 2-56 states that mining activities in lease tracts 13, 13A, 16 and 16A could exceed Colorado's daytime limit of 55 dBA at residences. Please add to measures M-3 a new **Compliance Measure** that conforms to the law: **Limit noise from mine activities at residences to no more than 55 dBA during the day and 50 dBA during the night.**

The Colorado State standard was created for residential neighborhoods in cities, where there is a huge amount of distant background noise, as well as nearby noises such as lawnmowers and many cars. The Colorado State residential noise standard will not provide us with the quiet that drew us to our property and that allows us to hear nature's sounds. Page 3-20 of the DPEIS states that background noise levels in urban settings can be as high as 80 dBA during the day, while background noise levels in rural settings average about 40 dBA during the day. From these two statements, we assume that the inference is that background noises in typical residential areas are perhaps 50 dBA during the day. If so, then the Colorado State standard of 55 dBA for the typical residential area makes a lot of sense, because the standard for daytime noise would only be 5 dBA higher than background, and page 3-19 of the DPEIS states that "a 3-dB change over an existing noise level is considered a barely discernable difference" while "a 10-dB increase is subjectively perceived as a doubling in loudness and almost always causes an adverse community response."

However, the Colorado State noise standards for residential areas are such that our property in our near wilderness setting would be horribly impacted by nearby mine development and operations. The bottom of DPEIS page 3-20 points out that background sound levels "in areas far removed from manmade noise sources would be similar to wilderness background noise levels", which are on the order of 20 dBA according to the top of page 3-20. Because "a 10 dB increase is subjectively perceived as a doubling in loudness and almost always causes an adverse community response" (DPEIS page 3-19), then the Colorado State Noise limit at our house would be perceived by us a seriously major increase in objectionable noise. During the day 20 dBA to 30 dBA equals one doubling, and 30 dBA to 40 dBA equals a second doubling, and 40 dBA to 50 dBA equals a third doubling, and 50 dBA to 55 dBA equals half a doubling, for a total of 3.5 doublings -- and recall that page 3-19 stated that even one doubling causes adverse community response. Page 3-20 of the DPEIS points out that in outdoor locations with no wind, etc, that background sound may be less than 10 dBA at night. Therefore, at our property a nighttime increase to 50 dBA as allowed by the Colorado State Standards would entail a horrible change in noise as indicated by four doublings (from 10 dBA to 20 dBA, then from 20 dBA to 30 dBA, then from 30 dBA to 40 dBA, and then from 40 dBA to 50 dBA). In short, while a mere "doubling in loudness ... almost always causes an adverse community response" (DPEIS page 3-19), noise on our property could increase 16 fold even if the mining activities are managed so their noises reaching our residence do not exceed Colorado State standards.

L37-9

L37-9 See response to L37-8.

L37-10

L37-10 DOE appreciates the conditions that the commenter describes. Required noise standards would be met in the implementation of ULP activities in addition to the implementation of mitigation measures and BMPs; see Section 4.6 and Table 4.6-1.

Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37 (Cont.)

Crocker-Bedford's Comments on the Draft PEIS for the ULP

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We see no way to develop and operate a mine in lease tract 13A or 15 without its noises seriously adversely affecting our lives. However, we take solace in the concept that most aboveground activities would be of relatively short duration (e.g., mine development or site reclamation), or intermittent and occurring only rarely or only a few to several times per day (e.g., blasting, and the loading of ore into trucks and trucking the ore offsite). Unlike our previous concerns in this letter over radionuclides, which we never imagined could be a health problem to us before reading the DPEIS, when we purchased our property in 1995 we knew that if a mine were ever developed and operated that our peace and quiet would be seriously disturbed. That was the chance we took and we accept that. **We therefore only ask that the constant noise of air intakes and vents and their fans and fan motors be directed into the sky by engineered sound barriers.** Please add a Mitigation Measure to set M-3 on page 4-253: **Air intakes and vents, and their fans and fan motors, within the Dolores River Canyon in lease tracts 13, 13A, 14-1, 14-2, 14-3, 15, 15A, 16 and 16A, shall have engineered sound barriers that direct their noises skyward so that the constant noises of air intake and venting does not reverberate through the canyon to nearby residences.**

L37-10
(Cont.)

Concern over Light Pollution at Our Residence

A major reason that we bought our land and built our residence was the dark nighttime sky. We appreciate that the DOE has done a good job at assessing light pollution, and describing measures to minimize light solution. **We ask, though, that the last two measures of the M-10 list on DPEIS page 4-261 be changed from the column BMP to the column Mitigation Measure, at least for lease tracts 13, 13A, 15, and 15A.**

L37-11

L37-11 DOE believes that BMPs will be effective. DOE is cognizant of their proximity to the lease tracts and will actively manage developments and implementation.

Concern that the DOE has Overly Simplified its Purpose and Need Statement, and So Has Not Developed a Legal Alternative

We believe that the DOE has seriously, overly simplified its Purpose and Need Statement, and so has no alternative that fully complies with the laws and the intent of Congressional legislation. Our August 29, 2011, letter to DOE during the scoping of the current PEIS stated:

"A terrible flaw in the 2007 final PEA for the ULP was that none of its alternatives was developed in consideration of the widely divergent environmental effects of mining at different sites, nor in consideration of domestic demand for uranium fuel and payments to the US Treasury. Thus, all of the PEA's alternatives provided far less than optimal service to the public, the taxpayer, and the environment. The new PEIS needs to incorporate in its alternatives the concept to first mine those locations that have the least environmental impact, while deferring the mining of more sensitive sites until the future when improvements in mining methods will no doubt allow mining to be softer on the environment and when increased demand for uranium may warrant the environmental damages. None of the alternatives planned for the PEIS in the June 21, 2011, Federal Register address this issue. It is critical that the ULP tracts, and in some cases portions of tracts, be ranked according to their

L37-12

L37-12 DOE believes that the five alternatives evaluated in the PEIS as the range of reasonable alternatives are adequate in addressing the purpose and need discussed in Section 1.4. See also discussion in 1.3.3.

Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37 (Cont.)

Crocker-Bedford's Comments on the Draft PEIS for the ULP

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environmental sensitivity, so that at least one alternative of the PEIS can be built around deferring mining in more environmentally sensitive tracts. Simply leasing tracts because they are currently under lease, as in some alternatives in the June 21 [2011] Federal Register, does not consider environmental sensitivity."

After listing several factors to consider with respect to environmental sensitivity (such as proximity to the Dolores River and the Dolores River Special Recreation Management Area), our August 29, 2011, letter stated:

"Also in general, a tract is more environmentally sensitive to new disturbance if it has been fully reclaimed (e.g., tracts 12, 13A, 14, 14A, 15, 15A, and 19), whereas continued exploratory or operational disturbance at the location of existing disturbance might not change the existing physical or biological environment" (e.g. tract 13).

In our scoping letter, we also noted that current uranium demand and prices, as well as projections of future uranium demand and prices, should be considered in the development of at least one alternative that considers the number of tracts to lease now in comparison to the number of tracts to lease in the future. We pointed out that such consideration would best serve the US Treasury and Taxpayer, and best serve the concept of uranium reserves for the future needs of America and its people. In fact, our scoping letter pointed out that 10 CFR 760.1(c) calls for seeking the highest bid, or the most return to the treasury, for an individual lease. Because uranium reserves in much of the world and the United States have been or are being depleted, the price of uranium ore will no doubt increase in the future. Therefore, to attain the most return to the treasury per 10 CFR 760.1(c), and to have uranium reserves for America in the future, many of the uranium reserve tracts should be deferred from leasing at this time.

L37-12
(Cont.)

Unfortunately, the DPEIS rejected all of our recommendations above, because the DPEIS used an overly simplified Purpose and Need Statement (DPEIS page 1-27 and 1-28):

"The underlying purpose and need for agency action is to support the implementation of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) (42 U.S.C. 2096-2097), which authorized and directed the DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium and to issue leases for the mining of uranium and other source materials to effectuate the provisions of the AEA, and the implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law [P.L.] 109-58), which emphasized the reestablishment of nuclear power (Section 601 through 657).

Because our scoping comments two paragraphs above did not meet the DPEIS' overly simplified Purpose and Need Statement, Page B-12 of the DPEIS rejected our recommendations to defer a portion of the lease tracts at this time owing to low market prices at this time, and also rejected our recommendation to defer some of the uranium reserves for extraction when needed by a future America.

We cannot find anywhere in the DPEIS any discussion of why the DOE did not consider an alternative that offers for lease at this time tracts that are less environmentally sensitive, "while deferring the mining of more sensitive sites until the future when improvements in mining methods will no doubt allow mining to be softer on the

environment and when increased demand for uranium may warrant the environmental damages." In fact, our scoping letter stated "that the Purpose and Need statement of the PEIS should be very clear with respect to leasing and operating to minimize adverse environmental effects." Nevertheless, we suspect that the DOE has rejected our recommendation because it does not meet the DPEIS' overly simplified Purpose and Need Statement.

Many times during Cole's 30 years of service in federal land management agencies, he saw top managers create overly simplified purpose and need statements as a way to circumvent laws or portions of laws and regulations that encumbered or complicated the action that those managers wished to take. Whether not intentional, this is the effect of the overly simplified Purpose and Need Statement in DOE's DPEIS. The alternative that we proposed in our scoping comments and that we quote at the beginning of this section of this letter, would need to be considered if the DOE had cited Section 951(a)(8) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) that called for "reducing the environmental impact of nuclear related activities." And if the DOE had cited the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Part 760, Section 760.1(k)(1), where it states: "The lessee will be required to conduct operations so as to minimize [emphasis ours] adverse environmental effects."

The alternative that we recommended in our August 29, 2011, scoping letter (almost all of its pages 2-4) and at the beginning of this section of this letter, including our recommendation to defer some tracts for future leasing and future needs by America, would be a viable alternative if the DPEIS' Purpose and Need Statement had considered that the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 -- as amended (68 Stat. 919, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq., especially 42 U.S.C. 2098), and which is further codified at 10 CFR 760 titled Domestic Uranium Program -- had called for Uranium Reserves to serve the future needs of the United States and its citizens. In fact, for several decades the uranium leasing tracts have been recognized on public USGS maps as "Atomic Energy Reserves" or as "Department of Energy Uranium Reserves", and the USGS could not have repeatedly named the tracts as "Reserves" unless the Atomic Energy Agency (AEA) and later the DOE had thought of them as reserves. **If the intent of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act had been to make immediately available for mining all of the uranium in the AEA/DOE lease tracts, then there would have been no reason to place the tracts under the AEA/DOE for leasing, because if the mineral estate in the tracts of land had remained under the management of the BLM then they all would have been available for uranium mining all of the time under the 1872 Mining Law.** Instead, the primary purpose of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, with respect to the Uranium Reserves, was to reserve some areas of high quality ore bodies of uranium for the future needs of America, when they might be needed.

Concern that Alternative 2 of the DPEIS Does Not Consider Return to the Treasury

The DPEIS treats its Alternative 2 (turning over the lease tracts to the BLM) as having basically the same as effects as Alternative 1 (deferring the leasing of DOE's Uranium Reserves at this time, but retaining the minerals in the tracts under DOE management for

L37-12
(Cont.)

L37-13

L37-13

Comment noted. Royalties are described in the leases. Cost considerations are not discussed to distinguish alternatives as NEPA documents such as this PEIS focus on the evaluation of environmental impacts.

Crocker-Bedford, Cole and Kara-Lynn, Commenter ID No. L37 (Cont.)

Crocker-Bedford's Comments on the Draft PEIS for the ULP

9

leasing at some point in the future). The PEIS needs to point out that Alternative 2 would cost the Treasury and the Taxpayer the royalties that must be paid for mining within DOE's Uranium Reserve lease tracts, because under the 1872 mining law the BLM cannot collect any royalty from hard rock mining.

L37-13
(Cont.)

Thank you for addressing our comments in the Final PEIS.

Most sincerely,

Cole Crocker-Bedford

Cole Crocker-Bedford

Kara-Lynn Crocker-Bedford

Kara-Lynn Crocker-Bedford

Cunningham, Kirk, Commenter ID No. E96

From: Kirk Cunningham
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 6:46:42 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Kirk Cunningham

E96-1

E96-2

E96-3

E96-4

E96-5

E96-1

DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E96-2

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E96-3

DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E96-4

DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Cunningham, Kirk, Commenter ID No. E96 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E96-5 See responses to E96-1 and E96-2.

Daniels, Mel, Commenter ID No. E84

From: Mel Daniels
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 14, 2013 1:13:16 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Mel Daniels

E84-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E84-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E84-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E84-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Daniels, Mel, Commenter ID No. E84 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E84-5 See responses to E84-1 and E84-2.

Davidian, Jerry, Commenter ID No. W19

Thank you for your comment, Jerry Davidian.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50019.

Comment Date: June 26, 2013 15:22:45PM
 Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
 Comment ID: ULPD50019

First Name: Jerry
 Middle Initial:
 Last Name: Davidian
 Organization:
 Address: [Withheld by requestor]
 Address 2:
 Address 3:
 City: [Withheld by requestor]
 State: [Withheld by requestor]
 Zip: [Withheld by requestor]
 Country: [Withheld by requestor]
 Privacy Preference: Withhold address from public record
 Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I request that the DOE elect to follow either Alternative 1 or 2, in their final draft of the EIS relating to uranium leasing. There is inadequate social or economic justification for the resumption of the uranium leasing program and the environmental risks and uncertainties greatly outweigh any perceived benefits.

W19-1

W19-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE’s preferred alternative.

While nuclear energy has seen nothing but setbacks in the past five years, the renewable energy industry has experienced exponential growth and economic efficiency gains during that time.

W19-2

W19-2 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the “Purpose and Need” discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

There is no current need for the extraction of uranium. The stores which exist on federal lands should be kept intact and in the ground. It is the safest, most intelligent decision and the only rational choice at this time.

W19-3

The Department of Energy needs to focus its resources on new, environmentally sound alternatives. During the next decades, rather than creating additional environmental hazards or cleanup projects; expanding renewable projects will be a much more valuable use of DOE resources.

W19-4

Do not renew the leases or enter into new leases. Leave the uranium in the ground where it is safe and available to future generations, should there ever be any valid reason to extract it. It is a resource which belongs to the American people and it should not be squandered or extracted for the benefit of foreign interests. There is no reason to take any environmental risk at this time and quite possibly there never will be.

W19-5

W19-3 Alternative 1 does evaluate leaving the uranium ore in the ground. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE’s preferred alternative..

End the leasing program and leave the uranium reserves safely underground.

W19-4 See response to W19-2.

W19-5 See responses to W19-1 through W19-4.

Davison, John, Commenter ID No. E87

From: [Jon Davison](#)
To: [mail_ulp@is](#)
Subject: Against Uranium leasing.
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2013 2:21:32 PM

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I'll keep it short. I'm sure we're both busy. San Miguel and Montrose counties don't need more uranium mining and milling. We are now a tourist economy. We don't want to jeopardize that for a handful of job. The uranium industry has never cleaned up all the messes they've left in the past. Chances are they will never build a nuclear plant in this area. So what is the benefit to the citizens of Colorado? I could go on, but I'll spare you.

Best Wishes,
Jon Davison
Placerville, CO.

E87-1

E87-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

de Bivort, Lawry, Commenter ID No. T48

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Lawry de
2 Bivort, and you can give us the correct
3 pronunciation of that.



4 LAWRY DE BIVORT: I'm Lawry de
5 Bivort and I'm a resident of Telluride, and I'm a
6 veteran of over four decades of research and
7 development in Washington D.C., including for DOE
8 and NRC and EPA and all kinds of alphabet agencies.

9 I'm going to be making some comments that
10 are critical of your process here, but I ask you
11 not to take it personally, because I have been on
12 your side of this barrier. I have composition
13 books plenty, full of notes from hearings and
14 comments and so forth, so I know what you are going
15 through and I know how, in some ways, impossible
16 the job is that you have been given.

17 I have not had a chance to look at
18 the EIS. I'm a quick reader, but 1,200 pages will
19 tax even me. So I have some comments and
20 questions.

21 First is that your selection or declared
22 preference for Alternative 4 is curious to me,
23 because preferences, by definition, are just a
24 matter of one's values. So what I'm really curious
25 about is what values did you take into account in

T48-1

T48-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

de Bivort, Lawrv, Commenter ID No. T48 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 deciding on this preference?

2 You are meeting a lot of very good and
3 very interesting people here, despite your
4 limitation on people to four minutes. I invite you
5 to get to know the region, get to know the people,
6 before you start selecting preferences.

7 I would question also your selection of a
8 preference, given the fact that the PEIS is still
9 in draft form. Certainly you would want to
10 complete the EIS before making judgments about what
11 you prefer, at least I would.

12 Second is we are all up here under this
13 four-minute limitation, despite some very smart
14 people who have already appeared before you, and
15 you're not responding to the questions or comments
16 that are being made. This is a huge mistake. It
17 is in some ways an arrogance. We should be in
18 dialogue, not this controlled thing where we appear
19 as petitioners to you who control the draft. This
20 is not right. We should be in dialogue.

21 Third thing is about the resources
22 involved in this interaction. Your EIS, I'm told
23 by a charming lady outside, is 1,200 pages long.
24 Now, I know how much effort it takes to put
25 together a 1,200-page government EIS, and I know

T48-1
(Cont.)

T48-2

T48-2

DOE's public participation process is consistent with NEPA recommendations. The time limit at the public hearings was established to provide all members of the public that attended the hearing an opportunity to speak or provide oral comments. In addition to providing oral comments at the public hearings, written comments were also accepted, thus providing the opportunity to offer additional more exhaustive comments.

de Bivort, Lawry, Commenter ID No. T48 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 the kinds of fees that the federally funded
2 research and development centers charge. So you
3 guys have had access, as you properly should, to
4 lots of money. Off the top of my head, I would say
5 you've burned through 2.5 to 3 million dollars for
6 this EIS, and you're not finished. You can tell me
7 if I'm wrong, but I doubt it.

8 The EIS, if it's like other EISs that
9 I've both written and studied, will be highly
10 technical. You'll be using analytic tools, models,
11 and so forth. Those require a lot of study to do.
12 We need to figure out, we need to assess, how good
13 your EIS is technically. We can't do that with a
14 few minutes spent preparing four-minute
15 commentaries.

16 So you all are being paid to draft this
17 EIS; we're not. You have the resources to buy
18 access to the analytical tools and models, travel,
19 G&A, overhead, et cetera. I don't think Argonne
20 charges profit, does it? But we don't have any of
21 that. You have given us the CED for the EIS, which
22 is great, but where are the resources to study it,
23 to analyze it.

24 MR. CAMERON: I'm going to have to
25 ask you to wrap it up for us, Lawry.

T48-2
(Cont.)

de Bivort, Lawrv, Commenter ID No. T48 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 LAWRY DE BIVORT: Okay. We
2 certainly have the intellectual, analytic,
3 scientific, institutional, and professional
4 horsepower right here in this region to assist your
5 PEIS on a fully technical level and the validity of
6 DOE's preference for Alternative 4.

7 So one of my questions to you is: How
8 much money will the government make available in
9 the form of grants to affected communities to study
10 the draft PEIS, and what will be the process for
11 activating such a grant or grants?

12 Lastly, it's imperative that if you are
13 sincere about hearing from the affected
14 communities -- and I'd like to think that you are.
15 At least one of you is taking extensive notes,
16 which I know you will be shaking out your wrist
17 tonight. If you are sincere in hearing from the
18 affected communities, that the period for the
19 assessment of the draft PEIS be increased
20 adequately and appropriately.

21 MR. CAMERON: Lawry, I'm going to
22 have to ask you to finish.

23 LAWRY DE BIVORT: I am finished.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

25 LAWRY DE BIVORT: You're welcome.

T48-2
(Cont.)

T48-3

T48-3

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

1 you would have wished that you would have had a
2 nuclear explosion in your vicinity.

3 MR. CAMERON: And I'm going to have
4 to ask you to wrap up.

5 NICHOLAS YOHO-WIKSE: Okay. That's
6 about it. My main point is that there's a lot of
7 good people in this area. It's a dynamic,
8 intelligent population. The mining is going to
9 take place somewhere, and I think the people here
10 will keep it in a better way than it would have
11 been in other places.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And I
13 think if you could stick around after we are done
14 just so we can get the correct spelling of your
15 name for the transcript.

16 And we're going to wrap up now. The
17 Department and our experts, if you need to talk to
18 them, ask them anything, Lawry, they're going to be
19 out by the posters, and I'm going to ask Ray
20 Plieness to come up and close the meeting out for
21 us.

22 LAWRY DE BIVORT: This is a question
23 that's relevant to everyone. What kind of
24 follow-up to the comments and questions that have
25 been put to you this evening will you be giving?



T48-4

T48-4

A comment response document or CRD is included in this PEIS as Appendix I. This appendix contains all the comments received on the Draft PEIS. Responses to the comments are also provided (see Section I.4).

Delaney, Betty, Commenter ID No. E69

From: Betty Delaney
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 3:09:38 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Betty Delaney

E69-1

E69-2

E69-3

E69-4

E69-5

E69-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E69-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E69-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E69-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Delaney, Betty, Commenter ID No. E69 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E69-5 See responses to E69-1 and E69-2.

Deuter, Catherine, Commenter ID No. E54

From: Cat Deuter
To: mail_ulpois
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 7:34:31 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,
Catherine Deuter

Cat Deuter

E54-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E54-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E54-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E54-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Deuter, Catherine, Commenter ID No. E54 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E54-5 See responses to E54-1 and E54-2.

Dix, Deborah, Commenter ID No. W15

Thank you for your comment, Deborah Dix.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50015.

Comment Date: June 3, 2013 12:32:14PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50015

First Name: Deborah
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Dix
Organization:
Address: [Withheld by requestor]
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: [Withheld by requestor]
State: [Withheld by requestor]
Zip: [Withheld by requestor]
Country: [Withheld by requestor]
Privacy Preference: Withhold address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

You used govt data, mining companies data, all pro mining groups
Where is the info on health problems done by other researchers
Did you use the NAS study about uranium mining in Virginia

I do not think the govt of America should be pushing uranium mining or Nuclear power and the people of America should not have to pay for nukes plants, uranium mining cleanups.

Do you look at the fines to mining at all

All federal lands should have a ban on mining, our lands belong to us, not Canadian mining companies

We want a ban on all federal lands!

Deborah Dix

W15-1

W15-1 Evaluations done for the PEIS relied first on available science and information from the regulatory agencies such as the EPA, USFWS, USGS, and state agencies. (Health studies done by other groups were examined and used to guide the analysis, if relevant - the NAS study about uranium mining in Virginia was also referenced; however, very limited quantitative analysis was included in that study.) The primary health problem of concern associated with uranium mining, as identified in various studies, is the increased risk of cancer, which is assessed in the PEIS. In addition to the increased risk of cancer, the potential of adverse health effect associated with the chemical toxicity of uranium was also assessed in the PEIS.

W15-2

W15-2 DOE believes that the five alternatives evaluated in the PEIS as the range of reasonable alternatives are adequate in meeting the purpose and need. DOE considered the termination of the ULP in Alternatives 1 and 2. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Douglas, A. Paul, Commenter ID No. E38

From: A Paul Douglas
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 1:41:10 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

A Paul Douglas

E38-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E38-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E38-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E38-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Douglas, A. Paul, Commenter ID No. E38 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E38-5 See responses to E38-1 and E38-2.

Douglas, A. Paul, Commenter ID No. E80

From: A Paul Douglas
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 3:45:56 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

A Paul Douglas

E80-1

E80-2

E80-3

E80-4

E80-5

E80-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E80-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E80-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E80-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Douglas, A. Paul, Commenter ID No. E80 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E80-5 See responses to E80-1 and E80-2.

Dye, Angela, Commenter ID No. T40

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

44

1 Those are my comments. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mike.

3 Angela Dye.

4 ANGELA DYE: Angela Dye, local

5 resident of Telluride.

6 I do not support Alternative 4 as your

7 preferred alternative, neither do I support the

8 leasing or mining of uranium for all the previous

9 reasons that folks have said. It's an onerous

10 resource and we don't know how to handle it. So I

11 think it needs to be left in the ground until we

12 know how to handle the waste. We obviously have

13 not figured that out yet.

14 I would like to add to some of the

15 comments as well as endorse some of the things that

16 have been said. Basically to clean up the spills,

17 the remaining tailings of the uranium that has been

18 excavated so far, especially along our rivers and

19 streams.

20 I would like to also point out that we

21 have 12 pages of mitigation measures that are in

22 ten point type in landscape format. That is an

23 incredible number of mitigation measures to try to,

24 in fact, deal with. They are way too extensive.

25 They are vague and without measurable outcomes or a



T40-1

T40-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

T40-2

T40-2

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

T40-3

T40-3

Mitigation measures are listed in Table 4.6-1 so that they could be considered for implementation. The effectiveness of the measures would be determined in accordance with lease agreements and approved mine plans.

Dve, Angela, Commenter ID No. T40 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

45

1 time frame.

2 And specifically under three areas --

3 under visual resources, for instance, that's the

4 longest list under Alternative 4 of effects to

5 landmarks and significant landscapes in our region.

6 And that is related part and parcel to our

7 livelihood here.

8 Under transportation, the increase in the

9 amount of truck traffic is on a scenic byway;

10 again, part of our livelihood, and it also affects

11 bicycle tourism. And, in general, I do not see

12 where recreation has been adequately evaluated.

13 Under socioeconomics, I don't believe

14 that they account at all for our current

15 activities, which include agriculture, grazing and

16 organic farming, as well as recreation.

17 So in summary, I do not support your

18 alternative. I appreciate the opportunity to

19 comment. I think we should focus on renewables and

20 conservation and add provisions for climate change

21 and our weather events. Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. This is

23 Linda Miller, then we'll go to Ashley Boling.

24 LINDA MILLER: Linda Miller of

25 Telluride. Thank you for this opportunity.

T40-3
(Cont.)

T40-4

T40-4

Sections 4.1.8.1, 4.2.8, 4.3.8.1, 4.4.8.1, and 4.5.8.1 of the PEIS examine how a reduction in the recreation economy in the ROI could impact the local economy. In addition, text has been added to reflect non-economic impacts to recreation in the ROI.

T40-5

T40-5

Section 3.8 of the PEIS discusses economic conditions in the ROI, including agricultural activities and recreation. In addition, text has been added to reflect non-economic impacts to recreation in the ROI.

T40-6

T40-6

See response to T40-1. The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Text has been revised to supplement the climate change discussion in Chapter 4 "Air Quality" sections.

Edge, Kristine, Commenter ID No. E61

From: Kristine Edge
To: mail_ulpois
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 11:09:37 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Kristine Edge

E61-1

E61-2

E61-3

E61-4

E61-5

E61-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E61-2 eclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E61-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E61-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Edge, Kristine, Commenter ID No. E61 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E61-5 See responses to E61-1 and E61-2.

Ekenrode, Carol, Commenter ID No. L6



DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D)
U.S. Department of Energy

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM
Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. ___ Mrs. (Ms) Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___

Name: CAROL ECKENRODE

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: 35 PILOT KNOB LANE

City: Telluride State: CO Zip Code: 81435

Phone: 970 708 0692 E-Mail Address: _____

Comment: I want you to reserve the uranium in the ground for future domestic use. DO NOT extract it for China Now. Remind the public/lands already destroyed by uranium industry to prevent further contamination of the Dolores Watershed & create new jobs now. Use public land for RENEWABLES, to generate new jobs now & clean energy for the U.S

L6-1
L6-2
L6-3

L6-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

L6-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L6-3 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Please use other side if more space is needed.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record.
- Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to:
Mr. Ray Plieness
DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to:
ulpeis@anl.gov

I-271

March 2014

Final ULP PEIS

Appendix I: Comment Response Document

Ellis, Ryan, Commenter ID No. T5

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

29

1 bandied about such as "legacy." I've been very
2 blessed in my life and I very much want to implicate a
3 sense in my descendants of honor. Several generations
4 from now, may all our natives be remembered with honor
5 and joy.

6 Unfortunately, long before then, the true
7 scope of the Fukushima reactor meltdown from Japan has
8 begun to be felt in our Pacific Northwest and, indeed,
9 much of the world. It's a current event issue that is
10 being suppressed by the mainstream media that we
11 should all be very concerned about in addition to this
12 issue.

13 I'm not suggesting that uranium is fuel
14 incarnate; I am suggesting it is our biggest challenge
15 to fully remediate.

16 In sum, I'm not a big fan of big federal
17 government, and no energy source is more intertwined
18 with the big federal government than nuclear power.

19 This alone is enough for me, but there's so
20 much more. Remember the word "legacy." In this case,
21 it is a euphemism for toxic radioactive waste.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eric.

24 We're going to go to Ryan Ellis next.

25 RYAN ELLIS: Hello, my name is Ryan Ellis.



Ellis, Ryan, Commenter ID No. T5 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

30

1 I'm an environmental engineer for Energy Fuels. And
2 Energy Fuels has eight of the lease blocks that are
3 included in this program. I just want to state my
4 comment that these eight lease blocks provide a big
5 portion of our resources, and they're important to us
6 to help supply domestic uranium and provide jobs in
7 the community. Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ryan.

9 Glen Miller, do you want to speak to us?

10 This is Glen Miller.

11 GLEN MILLER: I'm Glen Miller. I live in
12 Grand Junction. What was that radio show? "I use to
13 work in that town." I worked with the USGS Map and
14 Geology and whatnot in that area back a half century
15 ago. And I'll be brief.

16 I think we need to continue to allow DOE to
17 manage those leases, not BLM. A lot of people don't
18 agree with me, but I have some facts -- well, they
19 seem to be facts -- they're not from the federal
20 government, but the National Science Foundation that
21 energy from nuclear sources is our safest form of a
22 great volume amount of energy.

23 I'll give you some numbers: Mortality
24 rates. If nuclear is 1 in terms of mortality rate,
25 rooftop fatality, manufacturing, the whole thing --

T5-1

T5-1

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Ernst, Robert, Commenter ID No. E47

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: ULP PEIS reference
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 1:19:26 PM

From: Ernst, Robert []
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:40 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: ULP PEIS reference

A reference cited in this PEIS is not listed in the references. The reference is the 2007 DOE PEA. It is not listed in the references in the PEIS.

The 2007 PEA is cited in the PEIS on page 1-5, line 6.

In July 2007, DOE issued a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) for the ULP, in which it examined three alternatives for the management of the ULP for the next 10 years (DOE 2007). In that same month, DOE issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), in

I don't see DOE, 2007 PEA in the references.

I think it should definitely be in the references.

Robert Ernst, M.Sc.

Geologist
BLM – Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 So. Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
970.240.5305

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure. If you are not the named addressee, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete all copies of the message.

E47-1

E47-1

The PEA of 2007 has been added to the reference list (see Section 8).

Esty, Jon and Rosemary, Commenter ID No. E3

From: Jon_Esty
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: DOE's PEIS for Uranium Exploration
Date: Monday, April 22, 2013 4:20:38 PM

Dear Mr. Plieness,
We are writing to you to express our concerns for the record to the Dept. of Energy's plan to initiate increased exploration for uranium in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel Counties in SW Colorado. Pushing for increased exploration of this resource is something that should not be done for numerous environmental and public health reasons.

First of all, there are a couple of dozen uranium sites in the area whose owners have decided not to mine because of low demand, high cost of refining, impact on air and water resources, etc. The DOE should also support efforts by the State of Colorado to require owners of these mines to clean them up if they are no longer going to be used. It should be the business of the DOE to be aware of all the reasons why existing mines are not now producing, not be a cheerleader for more mine development.

Secondly, serious attention must be paid to the air and water pollution and its affects on nearby residents, agriculture, and tourist industry. For example, residents of Ouray County such as ourselves experience high winds laden with dust particularly in the springtime from the west. Blowing contaminated dust from uranium mining activities only adds to the problem we experience. Water supplies are steadily declining so any potential contamination of this precious resource must be carefully evaluated. Clean water is basically a much more valuable resource than uranium. We cannot allow the mining industry to freely destroy it.

Finally, the DOE should be promoting and discovering ways to develop clean, renewal solar and wind energy on these sites. Wind and sunshine is something we have plenty of here and utilization of this resource needs to be explored much more than it is now. It should be the mission of the DOE to look to future sources of energy and not get stuck with advocating a source which is fraught with so many problems as uranium and nuclear power.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Jon & Rosemary Esty

E3-1

E3-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. DOE oversees the conduct of activities on the ULP lease tracts consistent with lease agreements including provisions in the lease agreements that lessees comply with Federal, state, and local requirements such as those required by CDRMS on reclamation.

E3-2

E3-2

The PEIS include evaluations on air quality, water quality, human health, land use, and socioeconomics. See discussion in Section I.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts evaluated.

E3-3

E3-3

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Evans, Russell, Commenter ID No. E9

From: Russell Evans
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:05:35 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Russell Evans

E9-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E9-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E9-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E9-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Evans, Russell, Commenter ID No. E9 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E9-5 See responses to E9-1 and E9-2.

Evans, Russell, Commenter ID No. E67

From: Russell Evans
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 11:29:53 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Russell Evans

E67-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E67-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E67-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E67-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Evans, Russell, Commenter ID No. E67 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E67-5 See responses to E67-1 and E67-2.

Evans, Russell, Commenter ID No. E115

From: Russell Evans
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 1:31:32 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Russell Evans

E115-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E115-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E115-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E115-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Evans, Russell, Commenter ID No. E115 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E115-5 See responses to E115-1 and E115-2.

Fenn, Virgil, Commenter ID No. T7

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 people fall off roofs -- is five times as dangerous.

2 Wind is six times more dangerous; hydro is

3 15 times more dangerous. And I'll just mention coal,

4 and we've got a lot of coal. But coal is, in the

5 United States -- this is per megawatt produced --

6 1,600 times more dangerous in terms of fatalities.

7 We have a lot of uranium, and as far as I

8 can tell, some sort of nuclear power and solar power

9 is the future. We're not going to run out of it. If

10 we had (inaudible), I'm sure they're going to be

11 developed. That would increase uranium in the ground.

12 We have the factor -- the utility of it, a factor of

13 15.

14 So those are some things to think about in

15 the long term. It's safe and there's an awful lot of

16 it. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Glen.

18 Virgil Fenn?

19 VIRGIL FENN: That would be me. I'm up here

20 to appeal -- mainly I want to pitch a book. I'd like

21 you to open your mind, both sides of it there, and do

22 some research.

23 There is more misinformation --

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Use the mic, Virgil. We

25 can't hear you.



Fenn, Virgil, Commenter ID No. T7 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 MR. FENN: I'm appealing to both the
2 environmentalists and those saying we need more
3 energy, even if it's nuclear, to be more open minded
4 to kind of review your assumptions.

5 In particular, I want to try to get you to
6 read this book. It just came out this last fall, so
7 you won't find it in the library yet. It did come out
8 in paperback at 25 bucks. Search for "Thorium:
9 Energy Cheaper than Coal." This talks about a lot of
10 things we're talking about here with facts, with
11 references, and all of that.

12 One example is talking about the linear no-
13 threshold hypothesis when it comes to damage from
14 nuclear radiation. There's no doubt that extreme
15 radiation is very deadly. So is a whole lot of water.

16 And you just assume that the less radiation,
17 the damage just goes down to zero. You come up with
18 the wrong answer. It turns out that low radiation
19 can, over a long period of time, can, in fact, be
20 beneficial. There's proof of that.

21 And that's all in this book and in the
22 references. I would just please ask you to do some
23 more homework. This whole subject is a lot like sex
24 for teenagers. You know, you go to your teenager and
25 say let's talk about sex, they say, Sure, Pop, what do

T7-1

T7-1

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Fenn, Virgil, Commenter ID No. T7 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 you want to know? But in fact, they really don't know
2 it all yet. Don't assume that you know it all yet
3 either, please. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

5 Janet Johnson?

6 JANET JOHNSON: I think it's important for
7 us to remember this evening that our area has
8 suffered, for 50 years, a disproportionality in the
9 cost of what happens when you are the front end and
10 the back end of the uranium industry.

11 The costs have been to us, so far, on the
12 DOE minds, to remediate, 1.25 million. The mills in
13 Colorado, in our Uravan mineral belt area, \$1 billion
14 to the tax payers. The rate of compensation that we
15 pay out to people who have died or their families of
16 the people who have died or gotten sick, that's in the
17 millions of dollars already. And we'll just continue
18 growing, because we continue -- we have to continue
19 with the people who are the nuclear workers.

20 The Legacy Management Program itself is paid
21 for by taxpayer dollars. These are initial costs,
22 these aren't costs that will be going on in
23 perpetuity.

24 The costs to us have also been our health,
25 our economies, our environment, our waters.

T7-1
(Cont.)



Field, Sally, Commenter ID No. E113

From: Sally Field
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Uranium Mining
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 7:29:23 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Sirs:

Consideration of uranium mining in the Uravan area is irresponsible and senseless in my opinion. To see the devastation and continued pollution from this is sickening and not sustainable. An educated person readily sees that renewable energies are the way to go. And yes, renewable energy will create jobs and there would be jobs to clean up what has not been cleaned up after HOW many years..... as the pollution from these ridiculous OLD mining ideas continue to be promoted.

Please stop these horrific practices. No uranium mining if you understand we need air, water, soil trees etc. to live. Enough.
Thank you.
Sally Field



Sally Field

E113-1

E113-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE’s preferred alternative.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the “Purpose and Need” discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Fraser, Frances, Commenter ID No. E13

From: Frances Fraser
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:06:53 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Frances Fraser

E13-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E13-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E13-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E13-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Fraser, Frances, Commenter ID No. E13 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E13-5 See responses to E13-1 and E13-2.

Gabow, Bruce, Commenter ID No. E45

From: [mail_ulpeis](#)
To:
Subject: FW: uranium mining
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 9:28:28 AM

From: bruce gabow []
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:17 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: uranium mining

Why don't we focus on making companies clean up their uranium messes before permitting them to make more messes. Cleanups create jobs!
Sincerely,
Bruce Gabow

E45-1

E45-1

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Galloway, Danny, Commenter ID No. E58

From: [Danny Galloway](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 10:24:44 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Danny Galloway

E58-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E58-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E58-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E58-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Galloway, Danny, Commenter ID No. E58 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E58-5 See responses to E58-1 and E58-2.

Galloway, Danny, Commenter ID No. E102

From: [Danny Galloway](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:30:09 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Danny Galloway

E102-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E102-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E102-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E102-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Galloway, Danny, Commenter ID No. E102 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E102-5 See responses to E102-1 and E102-2.

Glynn, David, Commenter ID No. T45

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 Cañon City and endless other locations where leaks
2 and explosions have occurred scientifically prove
3 this industry is significantly uncontainable and
4 unsustainable.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. We are
6 going to hear from David Glynn, then Glen Williams.

7 DAVID GLYNN: My name is David
8 Glynn. I'm a resident of Ophir, Colorado. I'm for
9 Alternative 1.

10 I would like to speak to the end game of
11 uranium. We are really looking at the beginning,
12 and the beginning is not connected so far with the
13 end game. There's no need for the beginning of
14 this process, if we are not for the end. Now, the
15 end game of uranium is nuclear weapons and nuclear
16 power plants. Nuclear weapons are an abomination.
17 I can't say it any clearer. The nuclear industry
18 produces all kinds of waste that we have no
19 solution for in its storage and to make it and keep
20 it safe.

21 Then there's always the chance of nuclear
22 disaster. Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushima,
23 and then a disaster waiting to happen like the one
24 that this country avoided two months after
25 Fukushima. Now, this was a near disaster that went



T45-1

T45-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Glynn, David, Commenter ID No. T45 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 pretty much virtually unreported. It happened
2 along the Missouri River. The Missouri River flows
3 into the Mississippi, which flows into the Gulf of
4 Mexico. Thousands of miles of the best farmland in
5 the world were threatened, and yet the media paid
6 very little attention to this.

7 What they did cover was the stage that
8 I'm going to give you here, the setup. The
9 disaster that was nearly -- or that was avoided on
10 the Missouri, Fort Calhoun, Omaha, Nebraska,
11 nuclear power plant totally surrounded by the
12 floodwaters of the Missouri River.

13 Now, to be fair, this particular plant
14 was offline at the moment, but a spent fuel rod was
15 not offline. This facility was surrounded by the
16 Missouri River floodwaters. The primary levy
17 protecting the facility failed, so they put up an
18 emergency, water-inflatable, rubber berm, 8 foot
19 high. They punctured it in the process of putting
20 it up. Not too safe. Floodwaters have, what,
21 debris in them that can easily puncture a rubber
22 membrane. 8 feet tall.

23 The water rose over halfway up that berm.
24 The reactor room floor was 3 feet below the level
25 of the floodwaters, 3 feet below. Downriver --

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Glynn, David, Commenter ID No. T45 (Cont.)

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1 another power plant 70 miles downriver, the Cooper
2 power-generating station, nuclear facility.
3 Reactor room floor 2 feet above the floodwaters, 2
4 feet above.

5 During this flood -- which lasted, by the
6 way, not days and hours, but months -- was an
7 electrical fire in the control panel for the
8 pumping station cooling system for the spent rod.
9 Power was out for only two hours. The water did
10 not reach the boiling point, but we did have that
11 fire. It did happen.

12 Now, one thing else I want to get at here
13 is the connection, the dot that was not connected.
14 Okay. Remember these levels: 3 feet below the
15 floodwaters; protected by an 8-foot berm that was
16 already halfway submerged; the other reactor, 2
17 feet above the flood stage.

18 Now, across the state of Iowa, the
19 neighboring state, one watershed away, a super cell
20 released its moisture over the Dubuque area along
21 the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River,
22 which is a bigger river, much bigger than the
23 Missouri, during that event, up to 20 inches of
24 rain fell in a six-hour period. The Mississippi
25 River rose 5 feet in 24 hours. Add that 5 feet --

Glynn, David, Commenter ID No. T45 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

65

1 if that storm cell would have released its energy
2 just a little west, the Calhoun nuclear power plant
3 would have been inundated. The waters would have
4 gone over the top of that inflatable berm.

5 The Cooper station may have been 3 feet
6 below the floodwaters if that had happened. So
7 what do we do with the nuclear industry, with
8 something that is so toxic? We've got nuclear
9 weapons and we have got nuclear disaster lurking.

10 MR. CAMERON: I'm going to have to
11 ask you to wrap up.

12 DAVID GLYNN: I will wrap it up.

13 So my point is this: You've got all of
14 this beautiful farmland. What would have happened
15 if we would have had that super cell release its
16 energy just a little west and we would have
17 possibly, potentially contaminated thousands of
18 miles of the best farmland in the world. We are
19 playing Russian roulette with the nuclear industry.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, David.
21 Glen Williams, please, and then we'll go to Hilary
22 Cooper.

23 GLEN WILLIAMS: My name is Glen
24 Williams. I'm a resident of San Miguel County for
25 the last 30-plus years in the Norwood area. I have

T45-2

T45-2 See response to T45-1.

Goin, Wayne, Commenter ID No. E129

From: Wayne Goin
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 10:35 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Wayne Goin

Golden, Marcia, Commenter ID No. E40

From: Marcia Golden
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 11:10:49 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Marcia Golden

E40-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E40-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E40-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E40-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Golden, Marcia, Commenter ID No. E40 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E40-5 See responses to E40-1 and E40-2.

Gray, Dick, Commenter ID No. E57

From: Dick Gray
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 8:42:51 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Dick Gray

E57-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E57-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E57-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E57-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Gray, Dick, Commenter ID No. E57 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E57-5 See responses to E57-1 and E57-2.

Gray, Dick, Commenter ID No. E99

From: Dick Gray
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 8:59:10 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Dick Gray

E99-1

E99-2

E99-3

E99-4

E99-5

E99-1

DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E99-2

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

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E99-3

DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E99-4

DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Gray, Dick, Commenter ID No. E99 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E99-5 See responses to E99-1 and E99-2.

Green, Robert, Commenter ID No. E101

From: Robert Green
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 10:23:31 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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Sincerely,

Robert Green

E101-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

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E101-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

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E101-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E101-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Green, Robert, Commenter ID No. E101 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E101-5 See responses to E101-1 and E101-2.

Greene, Howard, Commenter ID No. E1

From: _____
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: I oppose uranium mining in western Colorado for the reasons below
Date: Friday, April 19, 2013 8:36:36 PM

-Uranium based economies are unstable; it is a boom and bust industry that has historically failed to bring long term economic gain to our region

-The "yellow cake" market is volatile and has been in a slump since the 1980's. Any new mining would be tying up public lands for a purely speculative industry and curbing real investment from coming into the region

-Cleaning up old mine sites can create permanent jobs on the Western slope. Uranium clean up efforts not only strengthens our regional economies but creates jobs locally in our rural communities.

-The DOE can create energy by developing renewable energy projects on these disturbed sites; this same region has been recognized for its great solar energy potential!

Howard

E1-1

E1-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

E1-2

E1-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

E1-3

E1-3 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Greene, Howard, Commenter ID No. E16

From: Howard Greene
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:21:15 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Howard Greene

E16-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E16-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E16-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E16-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Greene, Howard, Commenter ID No. E16 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E16-5 See responses to E16-1 and E16-2.

Greene, Nicole, Commenter ID No. E24

From: Nicole Greene
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:56:45 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Nicole Greene

E24-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E24-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E24-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

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Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Greene, Nicole, Commenter ID No. E24 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E24-5 See responses to E24-1 and E24-2.

Greene, Nicole, Commenter ID No. E68

From: Nicole Greene
To: mail_ulp@is
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 2:23:18 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Nicole Greene

E68-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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Greene, Nicole, Commenter ID No. E68 (Cont.)

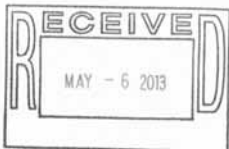
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Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E68-5 See responses to E68-1 and E68-2.

Grieger, Shawna, Commenter ID No. L26

Ray Plieness
PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



April 25, 2013

Dear Mr. Plieness,

This letter is in response to the Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. I would like to record my support for your department's preferred alternative, number 4, and urge you to use it as your final management plan. In doing so, I also want to be on the record as opposing any termination of the leases.

The United States is facing several energy challenges; we are looking for ways to minimize carbon emissions, and gradually replace carbon-based energy sources; we want a reliable, long term energy alternative; and we wish to cut our reliance on foreign energy sources.

Nuclear energy has the capacity to solve each of these problems: it is a non-carbon alternative; it is perhaps the most reliable and consistent source of electrical generation available; and we have a great deal of uranium in the United States, the greatest concentrations right here in Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. The Uranium Leasing Program that this EIS was drafted for is critical to a responsible national energy policy that includes nuclear, using domestic sources of uranium.

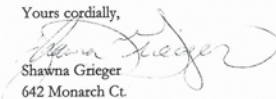
It is disappointing that there are those who either do not recognize the value of nuclear energy, or choose to disregard the benefits for the sake of an agenda. I wish that the people who champion the idea that all mining activity should be stopped – starting with the termination of these uranium leases – would step back for a minute and really look at the consequences of their proposals. They would see real people hurting, families struggling with extremely tough financial decisions because the jobs are not available to them that would be if mining were again permitted. They would see small business owners making the heart-wrenching decision to shut their doors, and young people moving away from their homes and families to areas that allow economic opportunity.

They would also see the unintended environmental consequences of their actions; uranium still being mined, but under far worse environmental conditions in parts of the world where environmental controls are viewed as a luxury. They would also see either a severe socio-economic disruption caused by a lack of reliable energy, or more likely, an increased reliance on coal and natural gas.

The point is that there is no risk involved in allowing these leases to continue – the EIS has examined every part of the regional environment, and set in place plans to protect each – but enormous risks in cancelling them.

Please adopt Alternative 4, and allow responsible uranium mining to take place in this region, for the benefit of the entire country.

Yours cordially,


Shawna Grieger
642 Monarch Ct.
Grand Junction, CO 81504

L26-1

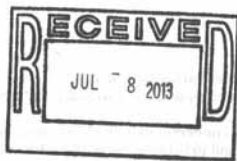
L26-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

L26-2

L26-2

See response to L26-1.



1

Mr. Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover St., Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

1 July 2013

Re: DOE/EIS 0472-D

Greetings Mr. Plieness:

I am responding to the request for public comment on the Draft Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement DOE/EIS 0472-D published March 2013. As an expert in the field of Boundary Layer Meteorology most of my comments will bear upon air quality and evaporation.

Additionally, as a part-time resident of the area, I do also have concerns about the effects of increased transportation in the remote area of western Colorado considered on visibility, air dispersion of fine and toxic particles, the daily activities of non-mining residents, tourism, and wildlife habitat impacts.

Importantly, I draw attention to the statement that the underlying law allowing this review of leases specifically requires that the mined uranium be for domestic use, not foreign use. Therefore, if this review is addressing access to these leases for foreign or domestic companies for other than domestic use within the USA or outlying States of Alaska and Hawaii, then the review has no meaning and the entire exercise is flawed. I would consider this point the basis of legal action. *So please state in any revision of this document that the intent is only applied to domestic use of the mined material and that there is no intention now or in the future that the mined material would be sold to foreigners.*

I draw this statement from the NEPA Regulation PART 1502--ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

"Statements shall be concise, clear, and to the point, and shall be supported by evidence that the agency has made the necessary environmental analyses." Italics are mine to emphasize the fact that for those sections requiring expert knowledge of the atmospheric boundary layer, I could find no evidence of analysis, only conclusions. In this respect the PEIS needs more transparency so that citizens can rationally comment on it.

I draw this statement from the DOE PEIS document, which covers the intent of my comments:

"Potential impacts from uranium mining at the DOE ULP lease tracts on air quality, water quality, human health, socioeconomics, transportation, views from sensitive areas, and cultural resources should be evaluated. Chapter 4 of this Draft ULP PEIS analyzes the potential impacts associated with human health and environmental resource areas

L51-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. *See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46.* For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

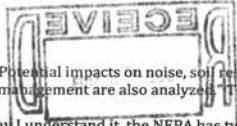
In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

L51-2 Appendix D of the Draft ULP PEIS describes the impacts assessment methodologies applied in the analysis. Section D.1 provides information on the approach that was taken which involved estimating air pollutant emissions from mine development and operations and reclamation, and then comparing estimated annual project-related emissions of criteria pollutants and VOCs with annual emissions in the three counties that encompass the DOE ULP lease tracts. This comparison (provided in Table 4.7-12 in Chapter 4 of the Draft PEIS) indicated that these emissions would only constitute a small percentage of the three-county combined emissions. Given the small percentages estimated, further air dispersion modeling is not warranted. The emission factors applied in the Air Quality analysis are based on the EPA WebFIRE database, which contains emissions factors developed by the EPA for criteria pollutants and HAP for industrial and non-industrial processes (see URL: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/webfire/>). For each EPA emissions factor, WebFIRE contains descriptive information such as industry and source category type, control device information, the pollutants emitted, and supporting documentation (e.g., test reports), and was designed to be a way of publicly providing as much information as possible in the development of each emission factor. The WebFIRE approach is highly transparent. It should be noted that the WebFIRE emission factors are in general independent of the local meteorological conditions for the type of construction and reclamation equipment projected to be used in the PEIS (e.g., the amount of CO2 emitted by an automobile is nearly independent of the wind speed, etc.). With timely receipt and incorporation of data from most performance tests, the EPA will be able to ensure that emission factors in WebFIRE, when updated, represent the most current range of operational practices.

I-314

March 2014

Grossman, Robert, Commenter ID No. L51 (Cont.)



listed. Potential impacts on noise, soil resources, land use, ecology, environmental justice, and waste management are also analyzed. *The italics are from DOE.*

The way I understand it, the NEPA has two central purposes: to ensure informed agency decision-making and to provide the public with information and an opportunity for meaningful involvement in the NEPA analysis. In the second respect, the NEPA requirement is similar to the peer review processes used throughout the atmospheric science professional and scientific communities, which have characterized my career. I find that the lack of competent supporting data and analysis in this DPEIS falls short of satisfying these two purposes. Therefore the current version of the DPEIS should be withdrawn for further work. I supply details below.

In fact, I find the approach used in the **Air Quality** portion of the document to be seriously outdated and not indicative of the state of the science in the 21st Century.

It appears that no air dispersion modeling was used in this PEIS but that air quality was based upon the use of an emissions factor as described below from a draft EPA document currently under review:

"Emissions factors are used to develop emissions estimates for processes and activities in cases where direct measurements are unavailable. Emissions factors are typically developed to represent long-term (e.g., annual) average emissions and, accordingly, data used for developing the emissions factors is usually based on emissions testing collected during normal process operating conditions. Short-term emissions from a particular process will vary significantly over time (i.e., within-process variability) because of fluctuations in normal process operating conditions, control device operating conditions, raw materials, ambient conditions, and other factors. Because of the relatively short duration of emissions tests and the limited range of conditions they represent, the available emissions and process data used to develop an emissions factor are not sufficient to account for these short-term emissions fluctuations." The italics are mine.

I bring this up because the PEIS contains no reference to atmospheric modeling, air dispersion modeling and relies heavily upon an EPA site called WebFIRE for emissions estimates. WebFIRE is not transparent concerning winds or locations associated with the various categories. Note that there is an admission of the lack of reasonable estimates of uncertainty in these emissions estimates and that they are likely either zero-wind speed or based upon long-term, annual wind speed averages from undefined locations. Local, and highly variable, wind and surface conditions in the area, briefly discussed, were not taken into account. In fact, this reviewer could not find any estimate of uncertainty associated with the emissions. So-called average values based on obscure references without any estimate of uncertainty provides no information to local planners, governments, or citizens. **This fact alone invalidates the entire document's intent with respect to air quality and visibility. It is compounded by the lack of transparency with regard to how the emissions estimates for the region considered were arrived at.**

There are two ways to form an average using a model: 1. Apply average conditions to the model and determine a single outcome. This is called a deterministic solution; a single number, as published in the PEIS, with no account of variability. For instance there is no way to statistically determine if this average exceeded a threshold or was different from another average. 2. Apply 'realistic' and variable conditions to the model over the period of interest, accumulate the results into a frequency

L51-3

The WebFIRE emission factors do not currently account for uncertainty but a study was recently conducted to evaluate and develop adjustments to account for the uncertainty of WebFIRE air emission factors by RTI International on behalf of EPA (see URL: <http://www.epa.gov/ttnchie1/conference/ei15/session14/neulicht.pdf>). It appears that the results of this recent study have not been integrated in the WebFIRE database as of July 22, 2013. However, inclusion of uncertainties in the WebFIRE emission factors would not change the conclusion that emissions from PEIS activities would only constitute a small percentage of the three-county combined emissions.

We agree that meteorological variability and wind field modeling can be important issues, but at this time, site-specific proposals and detailed plans have not been developed, and such considerations are appropriate when such site-specific proposals have been made by the lessees. At that time, site-specific NEPA reviews as required would be conducted.

L51-2
(Cont.)

L51-3

Grossman, Robert, Commenter ID No. L51 (Cont.)

distribution, and statistically analyze that frequency distribution with respect to thresholds and other averages. This, probabilistic solution, is much closer to reality than 1. above, which provides no information, and comes from an age of low computational ability long gone. Since most advanced-nation's meteorological services use probabilistic or ensemble modeling routinely these days, DOE should do the same. It is not impossible in the 21st Century as it was only two decades ago.

Furthermore, internal variability within the dispersion model needs to be checked and associated with 'reality'. This is done by slightly changing inputs and monitoring the output; there are very sophisticated ways to do this. This is because the atmosphere is inherently non-linear with feedbacks. So it might be, as with most current atmospheric models, that internal variability should also be a part of the analysis.

For instance, local, "unavailable" wind conditions could be modeled by any number of excellent mesoscale models set up for the PEIS region, and those wind conditions at very high time resolution could be applied to dispersion models at each of the mine sites. Of course that is complicated, computer intense work and subsequent analysis but that is what the taxpayers who support you expect. Professionals do the best work possible instead of 'squeek through'; something the occasional student is successful at when the professor is tired.

Variability is important. Just ask the planners in New York City and New Orleans about accounting for atmospheric variability with respect to hurricanes. The late Professor Herbert Riehl, founder of the world-class Colorado State University Atmospheric Science Department, often would joke about climatic averages and variability citing low annual average precipitation at a given desert station and then say that was due to one storm a decade ago that flooded the region.

I submit my testimony regarding air-dispersion in the region of interest during a court-ordered Judicial Arbitration Hearing in Nucla, Colorado, 7-13 Nov 2012 regarding the Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill as evidence that these factors must be taken into account: properly documented zero-wind emissions to be applied to a realistic, ensemble air-dispersion model with the ability to account for ambient dust scouring, complex terrain, variable upper winds and with realistic (15-min averages with gusts) surface wind information as input. The region is subject to violent, hours-to-days-long wind storms as documented by regional observations and specifically analyzed by myself as contained in the attached testimony. So I read with amazement this statement in the PEIS Summary: "While the existence of ore stockpiles during active mining operations is expected, the duration is not expected to affect human health or the environment. The Colorado State regulations prohibit the stockpiling of ore at mine sites for more than 180 days." Several strong wind events could occur within that period dispersing those ore piles and increasing evaporation by an order of magnitude. And what is to stop a miner from getting rid of pile 1 in 180 days while constructing pile 2 or 3?

The PEIS states this with regard to **Visual Impacts** for Alternative 3, noting that Alternative 4 is more intense usage: "Visual Impacts: The operation of open-pit and underground mines also might create dust, which could be composed of fine particles generated from the mechanical disturbance of rock and soil, bulldozing, blasting, and vehicles traveling on dirt roads. Particles might also be

L51-3
(Cont.)

L51-4

L51-4

All phases and aspect of uranium mining at the ULP lease tracts including protocols for stockpiling ore have to comply with the lease agreements, Federal, state, and local requirements. These regulations have been established to provide protection of the environment and human health.

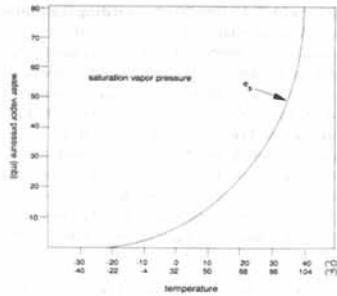
L51-5

L51-5

Text has been added to the Air Quality section as suggested to assure consistency between the Visual Impacts and Air Quality sections (see 4.4.1).

mobilized by wind blowing over ore stockpiles (National Research Council 2012). The suspension and visibility of dust would be influenced by vehicle speeds, road surface materials, and weather conditions (DOE 1995a).” This is not mentioned or accounted for in the Air Quality section. In other words, there is no analysis of the cumulative impact of a major regional mining operation on air dispersion of dust and potential toxic materials from mine sites, uncovered or partially covered trucks, and dusty roads. As stated earlier, this can and should be modeled in a revised PEIS. All of the fine particle dispersion noted above is subject to the same violent wind storms mentioned earlier.

As an expert in land-atmosphere interaction and boundary layer meteorology, I want to bring attention to the estimates of water usage for these mining operations. Water in the region is a well-known limiting resource. There is not enough to go around for everyone to have 100% of what they need. Water law in the West is very complex so sources are often under judicial review. Conservation Districts constantly lament the ‘over-commitment’ of water resources. Two things are not discussed in the PEIS with respect to this limiting factor: regional climate change, availability or impact on water resources associated with increased mining, and water storage/evaporation from tailing and used materials ponds. Results from regional climate models, increasing in sophistication since first introduced almost twenty years ago, all point to increasing temperature and decreasing moisture for the region. Regional water balance is rapidly changing as evaporation increases and precipitation decreases, decreasing the amount ‘in storage’ as ground water, lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. This was not taken into account. Further, the increase in temperature, associated with clear sky conditions, will affect the estimates of evaporation from lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. This is due to the effect of temperature on the atmosphere’s ability to contain water vapor, called the saturation vapor pressure, encapsulated in the famous Clausius-Clapyeron equation. This equation is highly non-linear as the graph below indicates:



Notice differences in saturation vapor pressure increase with increasing temperatures. Above about 20C, small increases in temperature result in large changes in saturation vapor pressure.

L51-5 (Cont.)

L51-6 Because water would be trucked in from outside the local area during reclamation, there would be no diversion of water from domestic, commercial, industrial, or agricultural uses. Moreover as mining and reclamation activities analyzed as part of the proposed leasing program would be small in scale, it is unlikely that competition for workers, equipment and other resources, including water, would be sufficient to threaten the continued operation of existing private or public sector activities. Environmental justice impacts of mining and reclamation activities under the proposed program, such as radiological air emissions, soil erosion, water quality, subsistence, visual, property values impacts, are expected to be minor, and there would be no impacts on water use for cultural, religious activities.

L51-6

The effect of climate change for the near term (within future 20 years) is more uncertain than those for the mid-long term (future 50-100 years). Because of this uncertainty, the water use for mining activities was estimated from the current water use.

Section 3.4.3 explains that water rights in Colorado are governed by using the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation and are granted by a water court system and administered by the CDWR. Water allocation for each mining project would be identified when the specific mining plan is developed and the water development plan for the water supply would address options of either applying for a state water right permit or purchasing from another region. The PEIS analyzes the impact of uranium mining leasing and does not make judgments about whether water should be appropriated to prioritize agriculture, industry and local business, or uranium mining. The PEIS does state that employment required for mining and development operations would be relatively low, would not likely disrupt communities, and could provide an additional \$15.6 million in income.

Evaporation can be calculated in various ways but a standard is the use of a gradient-type formula involving the difference between the saturation vapor pressure at the surface of the body of water using water surface temperature and that of the ambient air, in this case very dry desert air, with a, sometimes complex, exchange coefficient that accounts for the atmospheric transport. Thus small changes in water surface temperature can result in large changes in evaporation for unchanging wind speed or exchange coefficient. This can be due to a combination of climate change and poor assumptions regarding the estimate of water surface temperature used for the calculation. I suggest that because of these two errors, evaporation is seriously underestimated for the PEIS and needs to be seriously reexamined. I even suggest that some of the technicians involved make field trips to the region with instrumentation as it is evident that they had no first-hand knowledge of the area.

I would argue from a **Socio-Economic point-of-view** that in a region of decreasing water resources, local agriculture and domestic (township, business, light and heavy industry) use trump uranium mining. The former form the backbone of economic and social cohesion in the area. There is no way uranium mining can come close to the positive impact the other two uses make in the region. This is substantiated in the PEIS, which states that employment would not increase much for Alternatives 3 and 4 (on the order of 1%). In other words, the industrialization of the landscape does not help local population, which is increasing in the area, but those far from the disturbance area; they get the bulk of the monetary profit, not local folk. The local population and cultural artifacts, some of which are in current use by tribes, will experience more harm than good for this proposal. This citizen can see no positive impact in that regard. What I see in the document is a lot of discussion about the potential for harm ("could", "if", "might" as operative words) with no balance of positive impacts from the proposal. They should be elucidated.

For **Transportation Impacts** I'll use Alternative 3, noting that Alternative 4 is more intense. For Alternative 3, assuming 25 tons of uranium ore per truck and round-trip travel, the traffic volume would be 80 truck trips per day (40 round trips per day) and 10 truck trips per hour (for 8-hour operation). Since local surface water and groundwater sources are scarce and often of relatively poor quality with high TDS, it is assumed that the water supply would be trucked to the site from another region. This works out to a minimum of 9,600 round-trips from mine to mill during the peak year. From the accompanying TABLE 4.3-13 Peak-Year Collective Population Transportation Impacts under Alternative 3 this works out to 115 deaths and 1,344 injuries for that year if Pinon Ridge Mill was in operation and used; higher if the ore was milled at White Mesa Mill. Yet the PEIS states that no fatalities are expected to occur. This needs to be resolved. Roads in the region, even US and State Highways are remote, unforgiving with steep shoulders, often run close to or directly to the side of major waterways. Spills will be inevitable and the PEIS does not discuss how they will be handled.

In summary, based on my observations and analysis of the region, I would expect the DPEIS to address the following:

1. The effect of violent wind storms on air dispersion of ore, radionuclides (including those that may be attached to dust) and toxic material including the scouring of material by ambient dust during the storms and using available 15-min averaged wind data and gusts. For areas without observations and a more general approach, use ensemble winds generated from a mesoscale model tuned to the area in question and then use ensemble air dispersion model results for a statistical analysis and summary. During low wind conditions in summer, estimate the impact of dust devils on increased disturbed land and roads.
2. The effect of climate change on water resources needed for the various alternatives as storage is forecast to decline.

L51-6
(Cont.)

L51-7

L51-8

L51-7

L51-8

The transportation impacts presented in Table 4.3-13 are for the peak year as noted in the table title. Thus, the range of fatalities for one year of operation of the lease program is 0.012 to 0.060 according to the examples presented. The "Accidents per Round Trip" table heading above injuries and fatalities denotes that the empty return trip by the uranium haul trucks after each loaded ore shipment was considered in the total distance used for the injury and fatality estimates. Single shipment impacts are presented in Table 4.3-17. Accidental transportation spills are presented in Section 4.3.10.4.

In the PEIS, potential air quality impacts from activities at ULP lease tracts were analyzed by comparing estimated emissions from activities on the lease tracts to total emissions for three counties (Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel). At this DPEIS stage, no specific proposals have been made and site-specific information (such as the size and location of project, construction and operating schedules, staffing, and equipment inventories) are not available. Without such data, conducting detailed air quality modeling would be premature. During permit review for specific projects, detailed and realistic emission inventories and air dispersion modeling including near-field and far-field analyses (e.g., visibility, acid deposition, and/or ozone) at sensitive receptors (such as residences, wildlife habitats, nearby federal Class I areas and Colorado's sensitive Class II areas) would be required by leasing and permitting agencies.

Site-specific analysis of noise impacts would also be required when a proponent applies for a lease and a permit.

Grossman, Robert, Commenter ID No. L51 (Cont.)

6

3. The assumptions used in the calculation of evaporation from tailing ponds, other evaporative ponds, and needs for dust mitigation.
4. The cumulative effect of increased truck traffic on feeder roads on dispersion of fine particles and visibility.
5. The effect of ducting in the lower atmosphere on sound propagation .

My review of the DPEIS has revealed that the DPEIS lacks evidence concerning emission, fate, and transport of pollutants and dust in context of the complex topography and actual meteorological conditions at and near mines that are found on mesa tops, canyon walls, and in river corridors. Likewise, the DPEIS is not based on modern methodology and modeling is non-existent. Methods are available that would provide the evidence and analysis on which one could judge the emissions and transport of pollution from these mines. The DPEIS does not allow me or other experts to provide informed comments, the DPEIS should be withdrawn, revised, and reissued.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Grossman, PhD.

American Meteorological Society Certified Meteorological Consultant #392
6215 Baseline Rd. Boulder, CO 80303
and
99 Indian Ridge Trail, Norwood, CO 81423
grossman@colorado.edu

L51-8
(Cont.)

Hallenberg, Steven, Commenter ID No. T21

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

24

1 Mr. Hallenberg, do you want to say
2 something? And then we're going to go to Glen
3 Williams, Betty Oglesby and Wally Smith. And this is
4 Steven Hallenberg.

5 STEVEN HALLENBURG: Good evening.
6 Respectfully, I'd like to submit my name is Steven
7 Hallenberg, I live here in Montrose, Colorado. Been
8 here since 1990. I work in an industry that is
9 governed by regulations. I work for a local company.
10 I live here; I work here. But it's driven by
11 regulations.

12 And as you saw in some of the presentation
13 here, they refer to the CFR, and they refer to other
14 things. That's great, and that's what they should do.
15 I'm not opposed to the mining of uranium, but just
16 some of the facts that are related to this.

17 The Energy Fuels company, that's a Canadian
18 company. And it has been reported in the Denver paper
19 that this uranium will be going out of the country.
20 Now, if you watched the presentation, right at the
21 beginning, it said that it was for domestic use.

22 Well, I believe in that. I think that if we
23 are going to mine uranium, vanadium, or these rare
24 earths, then it should be utilized in this country.
25 That is the whole point of using our resource, okay?

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T21-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

T21-1

Hallenberg, Steven, Commenter ID No. T21 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

25

1 So I think it's a bit of a conflict when I
2 see the fact that this is a Canadian company. These -
3 - this uranium is going to be going through China,
4 just so we're clear here, all right?

5 So many of our resources that we mine,
6 whether it's oil, gas, or some of these minerals, they
7 don't just stay here. I believe ideally it would be
8 good if they were. And I'm not opposed to jobs at
9 all.

10 But finally, what I would like to say is
11 having, you know, worked in and in a regulated type of
12 business, which is the gas industry, I would just like
13 to say that the air quality and the water quality,
14 it's a very sensitive thing that we deal with living
15 in this area.

16 And any of you that live here -- obviously I
17 know some of you, I mean, we want the best of both
18 worlds. We want to be able to use this resource, maybe
19 provide jobs; but if we don't have, you know,
20 independent inspection agencies actually monitoring
21 the air and monitoring the water constantly while
22 these -- if this goes through, then I think it's just
23 a total lack of, you know, proper oversight that we
24 need for our very sensitive ecological area. Thank
25 you.

T21-1
(Cont.)

T21-2

T21-2

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Hallenborg, Lesley, Commenter ID No. E116

From: Lesley Hallenborg
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 10:07:26 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Lesley Hallenborg

E116-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E116-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E116-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E116-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hallenborg, Leslev, Commenter ID No. E116 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E116-5 See responses to E116-1 and E116-2.

Hallenborg, Steven, Commenter ID No. E123

From: Steven Hallenborg
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, July 01, 2013 8:35:29 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Steven Hallenborg

E123-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E123-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E123-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E123-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hallenborg, Steven, Commenter ID No. E123 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E123-5 See responses to E123-1 and E123-2.

Halpern, Stuart, Commenter ID No. E95

From: [Stuart Halpern](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 6:34:12 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Stuart Halpern

E95-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E95-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E95-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E95-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Halpern, Stuart, Commenter ID No. E95 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E95-5 See responses to E95-1 and E95-2.

Harrison, Zackoree, Commenter ID No. E17

From: Zackoree Harrison
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 6:36:31 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Zackoree Harrison

E17-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E17-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E17-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E17-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Harrison, Zackoree, Commenter ID No. E17 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E17-5 See responses to E17-1 and E17-2.

Harrison, Zackoree, Commenter ID No. E90

From: Zackoree Harrison
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 4:52:57 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Zackoree Harrison

E90-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E90-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E90-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E90-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Harrison, Zackoree, Commenter ID No. E90 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E90-5 See responses to E90-1 and E90-2.

Hayes, Joe, Commenter ID No. E36

From: Joe Hayes
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 7:17:20 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Joe Hayes

E36-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E36-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E36-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E36-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hayes, Joe, Commenter ID No. E36 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E36-5 See responses to E36-1 and E36-2.

Hayes, Joe, Commenter ID No. E105

From: Joe Hayes
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Sunday, May 26, 2013 1:07:10 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Joe Hayes

E105-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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E105-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E105-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E105-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hayes, Joe. Commenter ID No. E105 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

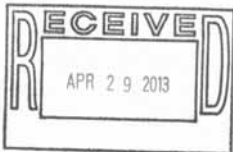
Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E105-5 See responses to E105-1 and E105-2.

Hazelhurst, Sean, Commenter ID No. L11

April 18th, 2013

Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
ATTN: Mr. Ray Plieness
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



Ref: Draft Uranium Leasing PEIS

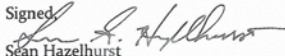
Dear Mr. Plieness,

I am writing to support Alternative 4 of the above referenced Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. This Alternative would provide the greatest benefit to the American people, in that it allows development of uranium resources, which are vital to promoting U.S. energy independence and contribute to a cleaner environment.

Nuclear power is a safe, clean, inexpensive, and sustainable source of electricity, which could provide for our nation's energy needs for generations to come. We are lucky to be blessed with an abundance of uranium in the western U.S., and it should be a national priority to develop those resources. Right now, over 90% of the uranium we use comes from foreign countries. There is no reason for us to be enriching these other countries when we have the resources, ability, and need to produce it at home. Why, for instance, when much of western Colorado is suffering double digit unemployment, would we be content with sending mining jobs overseas rather than putting our own people to work in an industry that is historically part of the region?

It would also be a mistake to think that in developing our own uranium resources that we would be causing damage to the planet. First, this PEIS has outlined in great detail the potential impacts to the environment of development, and has indicated, like earlier studies, that there would be no significant effects. It has also described mitigation procedures to be followed. Secondly, this level of attention would most likely not be placed on similar mining operations elsewhere in the world. Not only is our regulatory environment much more stringent, but the methods we use are more advanced than in many parts of the world. I for one would rather see our own uranium being produced with more "green"-friendly practices than see it done more carelessly elsewhere.

I hope that you will continue to support a domestic uranium industry by adopting your preferred alternative, number 4.

Signed, 
Sean Hazelhurst
1410 Windsor Park Drive
Fruita, CO 81521

L11-1

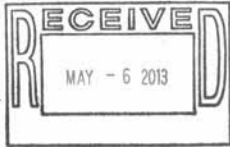
L11-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

L11-2

L11-2 See response to L11-1.

Heinrich, Mindi, Commenter ID No. L27

Mr. Ray Plieness
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



April 22, 2013

Re: ULP PEIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I believe that Alternative 4 should be selected for this PEIS, based on the minimal environmental impact associated with retaining and developing the leases, as well as the socio-economic benefits that would be realized.

Mining is not a new phenomenon to this region – in fact this area has a long history of mining, and sports a considerable number of existing and abandoned mines. Mining has co-existed with other resources in the region for quite some time. The impacts are well established, easily dealt with or mitigated, and not incompatible with existing natural features. Moreover, the development in question would not result in the construction of particularly large and impactful mining operations, but rather lead to mainly small or medium size mines.

The procedures and policies put in place by the mining industry ensure that extraction is done in a safe, efficient, responsible manner. The technology employed in today's mines protects the health of the workers, public, and environment, and is much more efficient than in times past, resulting in less waste and damage. These policies and procedures are augmented by strict environmental laws which help ensure that American mineral products, such as uranium, are harvested in the most sensitive manner possible.

These are buttressed even further on public lands with the inclusion of NEPA analyses, which are applied to all operations on government owned property. The EIS conducted in this case was a very thorough and intense examination of the many different elements of the surrounding area, including analysis of potential impacts to water quality and supply, air quality, endangered and threatened species and wildlife habitat, vegetation, erosion, and other factors. The conclusion reached was that keeping the leasing program in place would have no detrimental impact on the region's environment.

In light of these findings, I agree with the DOE's assessment that Alternative 4 reflects the best option going forward.

Regards,

Mindi Heinrich
1369 B Aspen Way
Delta, CO 81416

L27-1

L27-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Heuscher, Pennv, Commenter ID No. E120

From: Penny Heuscher
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2013 9:41:17 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Although this comment is intended for action regarding Western Colorado, I would like to remind you that there is a high incidence of CANCER in the Navajo Nation in Northeastern Arizona close to Colorado. The Cornfields Chapter, four years ago began a Cornfields Chapter Cancer fund to assist twelve members including children with the effort to travel for medical care. It has been documented that the incidence of cancer is contributed to the tailings left on nearby lands and due to water contamination.

This and previous documentation of tailings effects in our Colorado uranium miners and their children who breathed the dust the miners brought home on their clothes provides the basis and the reasoning for the Department of Energy to include cleanup projects in the PEIS.

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. The CORNFIELDS CHAPTER does FUNDING RAISING BY SELLING THEIR WOVEN RUGS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THEIR URANIUM AFFECTED CANCER PATIENTS.

Our lands take many years to recover from mining and therefore bonding must be adequate to provide long term results showing the land has been reclaimed. The DOE after certifying total recovery would then release the company from obligation. When public lands as well as private lands are mined proof of reclamation must be provided.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

E120-1 Comment noted. Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

E120-2 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E120-3 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E120-4 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E120-5 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

E120-1

E120-2

E120-3

E120-4

E120-5

E120-6

Heuscher, Penny, Commenter ID No. E120 (Cont.)

Sincerely,
Penny Heuscher

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the in-migration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E120-6 See responses to E120-1 and E120-2.

Hiatt, Nina, Commenter ID No. E5

From: [Nina Hiatt](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 7:47:46 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Nina Hiatt

E5-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E5-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E5-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E5-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hiatt, Nina, Commenter ID No. E5 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E5-5 See responses to E5-1 and E5-2.

Hiatt, Nina, Commenter ID No. E70

From: [Nina Hiatt](#)
To: [mail_ulpois](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 5:50:52 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Nina Hiatt

E70-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E70-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E70-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E70-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hiatt, Nina, Commenter ID No. E70 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E70-5 See responses to E70-1 and E70-2.

Hiatt, Nina, Commenter ID No. E91

From: [Nina Hiatt](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 4:12:46 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Nina Hiatt

E91-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E91-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E91-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E91-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hiatt, Nina, Commenter ID No. E91 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E91-5 See responses to E91-1 and E91-2.

Hills, Penny, Commenter ID No. T14

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

46

1 radiation contamination?

2 Can uranium or any radioactive material in
3 medical machines or scanning machines become another
4 element, still radioactive and unstable, that could
5 explode those radioactive particles? In other words,
6 can uranium become another natural radioactive
7 element?

8 These are questions that might be answered,
9 however, without provable records with the public
10 directly involved in those records established. The
11 records or answers are not believable, at least to me.

12 If there is a group or individual that would
13 like to talk to me afterwards for solutions to
14 radioactive material and to assist the Government, we
15 can do that.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mark.

17 And now we're going to hear from Penny
18 Hills.

19 PENNY HILLS: I don't have a prepared
20 statement.

21 MR. CAMERON: You don't need to have a
22 prepared statement. If you want to offer your
23 thoughts and feelings, that's fine too.

24 PENNY HILLS: I would like to say that at
25 the moment I don't have a job. I used to have a job



Hills, Penny, Commenter ID No. T14 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 in this place here, a pretty good job and I liked it a
2 lot. But I'm retired, so I'm sympathetic to the
3 people who want jobs. When you need a job, you need a
4 job, and there's no question about that. Problem is
5 what job, and what are the outcomes of that job? And
6 do you have time to think about it?

7 When you're looking for a job, can you look
8 at something like when I first came here, I was taken
9 to the races. It was a horse race. It was great.
10 Everybody was very excited, and the horses were
11 running around.

12 And uranium was a big deal, and everybody
13 loved it. And there was a boom in uranium; there was
14 lots of singing and dancing, and people had jobs.

15 But even today, you can see in the newspaper
16 the ads for the uranium miners that are entitled to
17 care because they got sick. Mining is a tough job,
18 and uranium is especially tough because of everything
19 that goes with it. So it's not only what will get into
20 the water, God forbid, I mean, we've got Parachute
21 Creek, that's enough -- but uranium is going to get
22 into the water.

23 But what about the legacy? Legacy is
24 supposed to be a good thing. Like there should be
25 more singing and dancing. More horse races. Yes.

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T14-1

T14-1

Comment noted. The PEIS evaluated potential impacts to water quality and determined that potential impacts to surface water and groundwater from uranium mining activities at the ULP lease tracts would be moderate. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

T14-2

T14-2

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Hills, Penny, Commenter ID No. T14 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 But not necessarily poison. What good is that doing
2 us? Why don't we clean up the poison first and then
3 have a big party?

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Penny. And next
5 we're going to hear from, is it Pier?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm not going to...

7 MR. CAMERON: No? Okay.

8 Is there anybody else that wants to comment
9 that had not signed up yet? Anybody out here that
10 wants to make a comment to us?

11 Yes. Can you come up?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

13 MR. CAMERON: And just introduce yourself to
14 us, please.

15 CHOI WONG: Hi, my name is Choi Wong, I'm a
16 nursing student from Colorado Mesa University. I am
17 not prepared for this speech. I am from China. I
18 moved here seven years ago, because I think Colorado
19 is a real pretty place, and all the residents here are
20 really nice.

21 And recently my classmate and I have done
22 research, a project on the uranium mining in Paradox,
23 Colorado. And I researched Energy Fuels as my
24 company, and I want to understand how the company
25 impacts the environment.

T14-2
(Cont.)

Hoffmann, John, Commenter ID No. W5

Thank you for your comment, John Hoffmann.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50005.

Comment Date: April 20, 2013 09:50:55AM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50005

First Name: John
Middle Initial: N
Last Name: Hoffmann
Organization:
Address:
Address 2:
Address 3:
City:
State: CO
Zip: 816230816
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Until the US has a method or system for safely disposing of radio active waste, further mining or refining of nuclear products must be halted. That includes the leasing of public property to mine uranium. | W5-1

W5-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Hoodwin, Marcia, Commenter ID No. E111

From: marcia@acornfamily.com
To: mail_ideas
Subject: uranium mining
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 3:37:05 PM

Allowing the DOE to reopen the uranium leasing program in San Miguel, Montrose and Mesa Counties will greatly impact the regional tourism and recreation economy, further contaminate the Dolores River Watershed, threaten endangered species, and compound the radioactive legacy abandoned multiple times by the uranium industry. This program is not only bad for the environment and the economy, it makes no sense for the United States to allow the mining and sale of these domestic natural resources to foreign countries, which is where this supply would go.

Please either cancel the program and allow clean energy production on the sites or send the PEIS back for a more thorough review.

Sincerely,
Marcia Hoodwin

E111-1

E111-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Hornback, Emily, Commenter ID No. E26

From: [Emily Hornback](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 11:26:46 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Emily Hornback

E26-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E26-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E26-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E26-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Hornback, Emily, Commenter ID No. E26 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

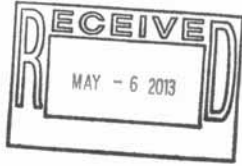
Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E26-5 See responses to E26-1 and E26-2.

Hutcheson, Lorraine, Commenter ID No. L28

May 1 2013

Ray Plienness, PEIS Manager
Office of Legacy Management
US DOE
11025 Dover St. Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



Dear Sir,

I am concerned about re-introduction of Uranium Leasing Program in the Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties. I live in Grand Junction on the western slope. This region includes 31 mining tracts covering 25,000 acres of public land and much land close to surrounding rivers. 10 new uranium mines could begin operation as well as existing leases.

This area is still trying to clean up the radioactive waste left from older uranium mines which should be cleaned before new sites are opened. 1,200 uranium mines have been abandoned in Colorado. The Dept. of Energy should investigate and disclose the current conditions of the mines and use the latest techniques to restore the health of the water and soil in these areas. The Uravan Mineral District has seen many uranium companies go bankrupt but has left a costly mess behind, leaving communities and the environment worse off than before. This area is one where many people visit to enjoy the outdoors and our future depends on cleaner jobs and more sustainable economic development based on renewable energies.

Many uranium sites are in violation of the Clean Water Act and continue to pollute both the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers. This affects not only humans, but a myriad of wildlife in this region.

The draft Programmatic Environment Impact Statement needs to be re-issued as a more transparent, in depth investigation of uranium mining and its effects in this area. We need better, cleaner choices with regard to management of our public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Hutcheson".

Lorraine Hutcheson

Lorraine_hutcheson@hotmail.com

L28-1

L28-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L28-2

L28-2

DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives (see discussion in Section I.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts discussed in the PEIS).

Johnson, Janet, Commenter ID No. T8

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

33

1 you want to know? But in fact, they really don't know
2 it all yet. Don't assume that you know it all yet
3 either, please. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

5 Janet Johnson?

6 JANET JOHNSON: I think it's important for
7 us to remember this evening that our area has
8 suffered, for 50 years, a disproportionality in the
9 cost of what happens when you are the front end and
10 the back end of the uranium industry.

11 The costs have been to us, so far, on the
12 DOE minds, to remediate, 1.25 million. The mills in
13 Colorado, in our Uravan mineral belt area, \$1 billion
14 to the tax payers. The rate of compensation that we
15 pay out to people who have died or their families of
16 the people who have died or gotten sick, that's in the
17 millions of dollars already. And we'll just continue
18 growing, because we continue -- we have to continue
19 with the people who are the nuclear workers.

20 The Legacy Management Program itself is paid
21 for by taxpayer dollars. These are initial costs,
22 these aren't costs that will be going on in
23 perpetuity.

24 The costs to us have also been our health,
25 our economies, our environment, our waters.



T8-1

T8-1

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Johnson, Janet, Commenter ID No. T8 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

34

1 Our goal here is really to ask for clean-up
2 this evening. And I will explain that to you.

3 Also I would like to state to you that I'm
4 asking tonight for a new PEIS to be released, a PEIS
5 that would actually have a substantial analysis of
6 what we know of the people who live here in the area
7 and not someone who is (inaudible) in numbers that are
8 inconsequential to our reality today.

9 I would say that I'm asking for that,
10 because we have no present evidence of best practices
11 being used on these lease tracts at this time, at this
12 point in time.

13 The lease -- the PEIS is actually to me, a
14 group in Grand Junction. It's very dismissive. I've
15 always lived in a uranium town, a uranium mill town.
16 It's dismissive after 40 years that have gone into
17 what we are today, and we are not what we could be
18 today. We're still depressed because of the uranium
19 industry.

20 We still live under the stigma of it, and we
21 still -- I feel that this -- the PEIS is insensitive
22 to the economic realities of what we face on the
23 western slope today when it comes to the uranium
24 industry.

25 I think also the reason I would ask for a

T8-1
(Cont.)

T8-2

T8-2

DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives (see discussion in Section I.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts discussed in the PEIS), and therefore, the PEIS does not need to be re-issued. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Johnson, Janet, Commenter ID No. T8 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

35

1 renewed PEIS, building upon what they have done now,
2 but actually being in the field, is that we when we're
3 examining the options, even the two options that --
4 the first that say they will do reclamation, there is
5 no standard of reclamation suggested. There is no
6 procedure that these mines and these lease tracts will
7 be monitored completely.

8 And we have seen at this time there's been
9 no active monitoring; there's been no active or
10 substantive evidence that there's any standard at all.

11 The legacy that we leave is critical to us
12 too. And how we manage the legacy that we have of the
13 uranium industry is very important. We feel that each
14 generation should endeavor to preserve and protect the
15 foundations of life and well being for those who come
16 after.

17 To produce mismanaged and abandoned
18 substances that damage following generations is
19 unacceptable. We must accept responsibility for the
20 nuclear materials left to us and those produced in our
21 lifetime.

22 As we study the Draft PEIS, we need to keep
23 in mind we do not want our nuclear past and present to
24 become the future.

25 We do have to leave an ethical legacy. And

T8-2
(Cont.)

T8-3

T8-3

The text being quoted was intended to provide the perspective that regardless of the ULP, uranium processing elsewhere would continue and the issue of radioactive waste management and disposal would remain; and the waste disposal issue from processing of uranium ore generated at the ULP lease tracts would be small relative to the overall radioactive waste disposal issue in the U.S. Management of waste generated from the proposed uranium mining operations on the ULP lease tracts is discussed in the PEIS (see Sections 3.13 and 4.1.13, 4.2.13, 4.3.13, 4.4.13, and 4.5.13).

Johnson, Janet, Commenter ID No. T8 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

36

1 the Draft PEIS contains some information that helps us
2 see our present situation. The DOE developed the
3 proposed alternatives by considering the need for
4 uranium reserves to support energy development. And
5 yet, in another portion of the PEIS, we see that the
6 DOE uranium mining, as a quote, on the DOE ULP lease
7 tracts would have little or no impact on the nuclear
8 fuel cycle, because a small percentage of uranium
9 would not dictate whether or not uranium ore
10 processing would continue.

11

12 This tells us that the ores on the Uravan
13 mineral belt are inconsequential to you as the DOE,
14 but they are consequential to us. The ores -- the
15 wastes are very consequential to us.

16 What we want is we want reclamation and we
17 want it to a standard. The Draft PEIS also states
18 that our role of -- that one role of DOE is to monitor
19 and track market prices, spot and long-term, for
20 uranium oxide and vanadium oxide and keep abreast of
21 activities occurring within the uranium and vanadium
22 industries.

23 Later in the document we see in the comments
24 that they couldn't analyze the PEIS -- or the original
25 commenting period concerning that the instability of

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T8-3
(Cont.)

T8-4

The purpose and need for the proposed action does not require expansion of the scope of the PEIS. As explained in PEIS Section 1.4, "Purpose and Need for Agency Action," the underlying purpose and need for agency action was established by the U.S. Congress in two provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA): 42 U.S.C. § 2096, which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium; and 42 U.S.C. § 2097, which authorized DOE, among other things, "to issue leases or permits for prospecting for, exploration for, mining of, or removal of deposits of source material [including uranium ore] in lands belonging to the United States."

The Purpose and Need for agency action, as described in ULP PEIS Section 1.4, is to support the implementation of those two AEA provisions. Section 1.4 recognizes that in order to support these provisions "DOE needs to determine the future course of the ULP, including whether to continue leasing some or all of DOE's withdrawn lands and other claims . . . for the exploration and production of uranium ores for the remainder of the ten-year period that was covered by the July 2007 PEA." PEIS Section 1.6, "Scope of the ULP PEIS," therefore describes the scope of its analysis as the evaluation of the five alternatives for managing the ULP, and the evaluation of "the three mining phases associated with the underground and surface open-pit mining methods," which "are the exploration phase, mine development and operations phase, and reclamation phases." Therefore, the AEA provisions are consistent with the present scope of the ULP PEIS, and do not require that the scope be expanded beyond the ULP to analyze the entire nuclear fuel cycle. Further, no DOE decision to be based on this PEIS would change the nation's use of nuclear fuels, including use of nuclear power reactors and management of associated radioactive materials. These and other aspects of the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle are the subject of numerous other NEPA reviews, including many EISs prepared by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

T8-4

Johnson, Janet, Commenter ID No. T8 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

37

1 uranium market has been depressed since 2007. There
2 was a blip. It's been depressed -- it's been depressed
3 since the 1980s.

4 And we see that it will not be considered,
5 because it's outside of the scope of their
6 administration. That wouldn't seem to ring true.

7 MR. CAMERON: Janet, I'm going to have to
8 ask you to sum up for us.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, I'll sum up what I want.
10 I want a new PEIS; we want it with the standard of
11 reclamation, and not speculative, but market demand
12 based leasing. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 Is it Dave? Dave Cak?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cale?

16 MR. CAMERON: Dave Cak?

17 DAVE CALE: Hi, my name is Dave Cale. I
18 speak as a little guy, small citizen of the community
19 who believes still in the right to the availability
20 and the purity of our air, our water, our soil, or
21 ecological balance.

22 I don't see -- and maybe I overlooked it,
23 but I don't see anything addressing in the PEIS
24 talking about agriculture in the Uravan belt, which
25 probably has changed over the years since the original

T8-4
(Cont.)

T8-5

T8-5 See responses to T8-1 to T8-4.

Jones, David, Commenter ID No. W11

Thank you for your comment, David Jones.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50011.

Comment Date: April 28, 2013 15:08:05PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50011

First Name: David
Middle Initial: L
Last Name: Jones
Organization:
Address: 700 Sabeta Drive
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Ridgway
State: CO
Zip: 81432
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I am very concerned about the health and environmental impacts of more Uranium mining in the western slope counties of Colorado. Although there may be potential short term job creation, there are other safer, more environmentally responsible methods for creating jobs. Uranium based economies are unstable; it is a boom and bust industry that has historically failed to bring long term economic gain to our region.

W11-1

Please do not endorse this proposed uranium mine.
Sincerely, David L. Jones

W11-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. See also discussion in Section I.3.2 for concerns regarding a "boom and bust" economy in the region as a result of uranium mining on the ULP lease tracts.

Joy, Jay, Commenter ID No. E44

From: Jay Joy
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:43:12 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Jay Joy

E44-1

E44-2

E44-3

E44-4

E44-5

E44-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E44-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E44-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E44-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Jov, Jav, Commenter ID No. E44 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E44-5 See responses to E44-1 and E44-2.

Justice, Susan, Commenter ID No. E89

From: Susan Justice
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 3:39:09 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Introduce alternative ways of making a clean healthy living where threats to contaminate anything no longer happens.....Colorado has many fine opportunities available to profit from . Keep Colorado Beautiful, Thank you!
Sincerely,

Susan Justice

E89-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E89-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E89-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E89-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Justice, Susan, Commenter ID No. E89 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E89-5 See responses to E89-1 and E89-2.

Kanter, Holly, Commenter ID No. L17

April 23, 2013

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021
E-mail: ulpeis@anl.gov

Re: Draft ULP PEIS

Dear Sir,

Thank you for extending this opportunity to the public to express our opinions and views concerning the Department of Energy's Uranium Leasing Program. Like most western Colorado residents, I greatly appreciate the natural beauty of the region, as well as the tremendous opportunities for outdoor activities that this part of the world offers. I also recognize the economic concerns facing our local communities and our nation. We are blessed to have a great wealth of natural resources, including uranium, right here in our own back yard.

These resources can be managed in such a way as to not compete with one another – uranium can be mined, for example, without adversely impacting the outdoor recreational industry. It can be done so in a responsible, safe, and conscientious manner, as experience and this PEIS show us.

The payoff for this development is increased local employment, growth, and revenue. These are good, skilled, high paying jobs that modern mining offers. The spin-off effects create opportunities for many small businesses in the region, from companies providing supplies and services in direct support of the mines, to the gas stations, restaurants, barbers, tire shops, and many, many others.

The revenue generated from mining and from this economic growth eases strain on local budgets, and provides the money for modern fire, police and ambulance services, road maintenance, schools, and other amenities.

The economic benefits of uranium mining extend beyond the local region, of course, as it undergoes processing for eventual use in nuclear power generation, providing reliable, inexpensive energy for the nation, and a greater measure of national energy independence.

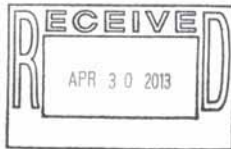
Alternative 4 best recognizes these benefits, and is based on a more realistic and objective analysis than the other alternatives, which would terminate some or even all of the lease tracts. Given the importance of uranium to the nation's energy future, the economic benefits to the region in developing it, the limited environmental impacts of that development, and the environmental benefits of nuclear energy, I see no reason not to proceed with the leasing plan.

I wish to again thank the DoE and reiterate my support for your preferred alternative.

Respectfully,



Holly Kanter
1712 Pioneer Circle
Delta, CO 81416



L17-1

L17-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Keller, JR, Commenter ID No. L18

TO: Ray Plieness
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



April 23, 2013

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I support Alternative 4 in the uranium leasing PEIS, which would continue the leasing program with all 31 tracts, and that is the DOE's preferred alternative.

I do so because this alternative recognizes the crucial economic importance of the uranium leasing program. On the local level, the program creates the potential for hundreds of direct and indirect jobs throughout the region. The income earned from those jobs will help revitalize a stricken regional economy, and improve the quality of life of the people who live here. This activity will also produce more government revenues, adding to funding for schools and essential services, and allowing tax rates to remain low for working families and small business owners.

On the national level, the economic benefits of this program include the recovery of a strategically important resource that we currently obtain largely from other nations.

Uranium will become increasingly more valuable – and expensive – in coming years as nuclear energy is brought online to replace carbon-based fuels, and provide more consistent, reliable electrical power than other alternative sources such as wind and solar can provide. Of course, these benefits could even be realized within our own borders, and should America wisely turn more to nuclear power herself, these tracts will provide a secure, steady supply of the uranium needed to fuel it.

No good reason has been presented to terminate the leases. This extensive and thorough Environmental Impact Statement clearly demonstrates that the risk to water, air, wildlife, vegetation, soil, and other components of the natural environment, of developing these leases is very low.

Modern technology, procedures, and attitudes ensure that our mining operations are the safest and greenest in the world. More than that, these mines are operated and serviced by people who live here, and care for the environment, water, and air as much or more than anyone.

We have been successfully balancing conservation and mining for many, many years, before it was fashionable.

I am more than satisfied that NEPA requirements have been met with this EIS, and that the ULP presents, on balance, more rewards than risks. For these reasons, I support the preferred Alternative, Alternative 4.

Cordially,

JR Keller
1221 Frontier Road
Delta, CO 81416

L18-1

L18-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

L18-2

L18-2

See response to L18-1.

L18-3

L18-3

See response to L18-1.

Kemper, Katie, Commenter ID No. E50

From: [Katie Kemper](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 8:05:25 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Katie Kemper

E50-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

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The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E50-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E50-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Kemper, Katie, Commenter ID No. E50 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E50-5 See responses to E50-1 and E50-2.

Kendall, Don, Commenter ID No. L19

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



4/18/13

Dear Mr. Plieness,

Thank you extending this opportunity for the public to weigh in on the Uranium Leasing Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

I believe that your agency has done a remarkable job in analyzing all aspects of the environment concerning this lease program, and I am impressed with the amount of detail and effort that has gone to in preparing it. It seems as though there is little or no environmental risk in allowing these leases to stand and be developed. The documentation shows that there would be minimal impacts to air quality, water, endangered plant and animal species, hydrologic features, habitat, or any other concern. It also shows that there would not be significant cumulative impacts over time.

L19-1

L19-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

While there would not be much in the way of environmental effects, there would be considerable socio-economic impact. The mines that the ULP would allow will provide a great many job opportunities for local residents, and offer an incentive to further investment and growth. This is critical in an area so dependent on mining for its economic and social survival. Were the plan to be scrapped, and the leases vacated, the real and psychological impacts to the local mining communities would be as devastating as those seen in other parts of the country when mining stops.

It is becoming increasingly clearer that nuclear power is the way of the future. As people look to move away from fossil fuels, and seeing as how renewables can, at present, only manage to contribute approximately 20% of the electricity demanded by society, more reliance will be placed on nuclear power to fill the gap. The vast quantities of uranium that we are literally sitting on top of in the western United States puts us in a very competitive position globally. It seems frankly foolish not to proceed with a uranium mining program.

L19-2

L19-2

See response to L19-1.

I realize that there are a few groups out there who simply refuse to see the larger picture and acknowledge the many benefits of nuclear energy; but the short-sightedness and aggressiveness of these fringe elements should not dissuade you from doing the right thing for the people of this nation, and permit uranium leasing, especially given the low environmental risk as described by this study.

L19-3

L19-3

See response to L19-1.

For these reasons, I would like to recommend Alternative 4.

Thank you again for your dedication to American energy security,

Regards,

Don Kendall
360 Teegan Ct
GJ, CO 81507

Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. W6

From: Piera Kllanxhja
To: mail_ulpois
Subject: Uranium Mines & our land, water and air
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 1:57:34 PM

Dear Sirs & Ladies,

I am writing you to voice my concerns about the recently released Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement(PEIS) that governs uranium leasing in Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel counties. I believe opening up more land for Uranium development is wrong for Western Colorado and ask that the Department of Energy provide us with a localized, in depth analysis of the Uranium Leasing Program and offer an alternative that does not leave public lands open to speculative mining activities. The proposed Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill has the potential to impact not only the region immediately surrounding the Paradox Valley, but also all of the communities downwind and downstream. The application for the proposed mill does not meet the basic requirements to protect the environment and public health and safety.

- Pino Ridge Uranium Mill -It's dangers
 - I am concerned about radioactive air pollution from the mill traveling downwind across most of Colorado and contaminating drinking water supplies.
 - Where will the water come from to both operate the mill and keep the radioactive tailings from blowing into the airstream? I am concerned about the impacts on the Colorado River Basin, already experiencing severe drought conditions.
 - I am concerned that any ground water contamination from the proposed tailings piles will eventually flow to the Dolores and Colorado River, contaminating drinking water supplies downstream. The state has ignored ground-water contamination from the Cotter Mill in Canyon City, CO. Man-made tailings piles eventually leak. Why repeat the mistakes of our past and create a new toxic legacy in SW Colorado.
 - As we see the impacts from the boom and bust cycles of the extractive industries impact communities across Colorado, I am concerned about the socioeconomic impacts on the rural communities of SW Colorado and the potential impacts on the tourist dependent communities directly downwind.
 - The Colorado Plateau and specifically the Dolores River Basin is one of the most treasured landscapes of the west. We do not want to destroy the land, for false dreams of mineral wealth!
 - I am concerned about the impacts on our roads from increased heavy truck traffic and the transport of radioactive materials to processing plants outside the U.S.
 - The proposed \$11M bond is woefully inadequate to pay the actual remediation costs and if history repeats itself, the owners will walk away leaving the responsibility to our children the taxpayers.
- I appreciate your thorough consideration of the proposed mill. State regulators have fallen well short of their mission to protect the environment and public health of Colorado to date in this process. We ask that you carefully consider the first uranium mill proposed in 30 years in our state and either deny this application or impose strong conditions to ensure the protection of both public health and environment. Sincerely,

Piera Kllanxhja

W6-1

W6-1

Alternative 1 evaluated in the Draft PEIS does provide such an analysis - this alternative involved the termination of the leases with reclamation at any areas requiring such.

W6-2

W6-2

The cumulative impacts analyzed in this PEIS include the potential impacts of the proposed Piñon Ridge Mill. See Section 4.7.1.1.

Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. E35

From: Piera Kllanxhja
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 1:51:26 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Piera Kllanxhja

E35-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E35-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

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Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. E35 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E35-5 See responses to E35-1 and E35-2.

Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. E118

From: Piera Kllanxhja
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 5:42:48 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Piera Kllanxhja

E118-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E118-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E118-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E118-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. E118 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E118-5 See responses to E118-1 and E118-2.

Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. E119

Thank you for your comment, Piera Kllanxhja.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50006.

Comment Date: April 20, 2013 10:44:50AM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50006

First Name: Piera
Middle Initial: P
Last Name: Kllanxhja
Organization:
Address:
Address 2:
Address 3:
City:
State: CO
Zip: 81501
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: Pino Mill uranium protest.rtf

Comment Submitted:

Kllanxhja, Piera, Commenter ID No. E119 (Cont.)

From: [Piera Kllanxhja](#)
To: [mail_sloas](#)
Subject: Uranium Mines & our land, water and air!
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 1:57:34 PM

Dear Sirs & Ladies,

I am writing you to voice my concerns about the recently released Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement(PEIS) that governs uranium leasing in Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel counties. I believe opening up more land for Uranium development is wrong for Western Colorado and ask that the Department of Energy provide us with a localized, in depth analysis of the Uranium Leasing Program and offer an alternative that does not leave public lands open to speculative mining activities. The proposed Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill has the potential to impact not only the region immediately surrounding the Paradox Valley, but also all of the communities downwind and downstream. The application for the proposed mill does not meet the basic requirements to protect the environment and public health and safety.

- Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill -It's dangers
- I am concerned about radioactive air pollution from the mill traveling downwind across most of Colorado and contaminating drinking water supplies.
 - Where will the water come from to both operate the mill and keep the radioactive tailings from blowing into the airstream? I am concerned about the impacts on the Colorado River Basin, already experiencing severe drought conditions.
 - I am concerned that any ground water contamination from the proposed tailings piles will eventually flow to the Dolores and Colorado River, contaminating drinking water supplies downstream. The state has ignored ground-water contamination from the Cotter Mill in Canyon City, CO. Man-made tailings piles eventually leak. Why repeat the mistakes of our past and create a new toxic legacy in SW Colorado.
 - As we see the impacts from the boom and bust cycles of the extractive industries impact communities across Colorado, I am concerned about the socioeconomic impacts on the rural communities of SW Colorado and the potential impacts on the tourist dependent communities directly downwind.
 - The Colorado Plateau and specifically the Dolores River Basin is one of the most treasured landscapes of the west. We do not want to destroy the land, for false dreams of mineral wealth!
 - I am concerned about the impacts on our roads from increased heavy truck traffic and the transport of radioactive materials to processing plants outside the U.S.
 - The proposed \$11M bond is woefully inadequate to pay the actual remediation costs and if history repeats itself, the owners will walk away leaving the responsibility to our children the taxpayers.
- I appreciate your thorough consideration of the proposed mill. State regulators have fallen well short of their mission to protect the environment and public health of Colorado to date in this process. We ask that you carefully consider the first uranium mill proposed in 30 years in our state and either deny this application or impose strong conditions to ensure the protection of both public health and environment.

Sincerely,
Piera Kllanxhja

E119-1

E119-1 Alternative 1 evaluated in the Draft PEIS does provide such an analysis - this alternative involved the termination of the leases with reclamation at any areas requiring such.

E119-2

E119-2 The cumulative impacts analyzed in this PEIS include the potential impacts of the proposed Piñon Ridge Mill. See Section 4.7.1.1.

Kolachov, Nick, Commenter ID No. T50

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

80 ←

1 NICK KOLACHOV: I just want to thank
 2 everyone for everything they've said that has been
 3 contributed, and I just wanted to come from a
 4 different point. I live on the road that a lot of
 5 these trucks are going to be going on. I've lived
 6 on this road for eight years, and you can tell time
 7 by the sounds of the different trucks that are the
 8 different buses that go on this road. I don't
 9 know -- I think a lot of people that drive it will
 10 be driving it and will be seeing, well, there's a
 11 lot of traffic right now when I'm on the road.

12 But in actuality, living next to this
 13 road, you really understand our whole community,
 14 and you see that, you know, wow, there goes the UPS
 15 truck. It must be that time. You can really see
 16 that there aren't many people that live here. We
 17 don't have many people driving on this road. And
 18 so when you start to look at the numbers of the
 19 trucks and the kind of traffic that's going to be
 20 generated, I mean, even six or eight trucks would
 21 be noticeable a day.

22 The road between the hours of, say, 9:00
 23 and 10:00 in the morning goes silent. There is
 24 almost no traffic. I mean, it's -- most people who
 25 drive it wouldn't understand this. But I

T50-1

T50-1

During a peak year, six to eight uranium ore haul trucks per day could pass along a local road that services a uranium mine as analyzed in Sections 4.3.10.2.1, 4.4.10.1.1, and 4.5.10.1.1. At the rate of about 1 truck an hour, the trucks may be noticed, but traffic is not expected to be impacted.

Kolachov, Nick, Commenter ID No. T50 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

81

1 understand this just by virtue of living right next
2 to the road.

3 And so I took a moment today thinking
4 about the hearing, and I thought, you know, it's
5 really interesting to look at it and say, right now
6 in this moment, it's as good as it's ever going to
7 get. Now, isn't that a sad commentary? That we
8 have to say that here it is. We are going into a
9 time period when we should be thinking about less
10 driving and, you know, less CO2, and it's only
11 going to get more. And then it's going to be
12 happening through industry in this environment
13 where most of the people that have moved here and
14 live here and inhabit this area now, who weren't
15 born here, moved here for the quality of life. And
16 yet, that's being directly impacted, especially by
17 ambient noise of trucks and the dust that they give
18 off, and here we are on a road that is quiet today
19 in 2013.

20 So as a steward of the road that these
21 trucks are going to be on, and not to mention there
22 are families who live all around me who have
23 children, and we all live right on this road, and
24 it's a pretty quiet road and we're okay with it the
25 way it is right now.

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T50-1
(Cont.)

T50-2

T50-2

DOE recognizes the quality of life provided by a number of areas in which the lease tracts are situated, and it is not expected to change much with DOE's proposed action. It should also be recognized that the Atomic Energy Commission uranium leasing programs were begun in this area in 1948 and continue to this day as discussed in Section 1.1.

Kolachov, Nick, Commenter ID No. T50 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

82

1 And so I would say as a resident, that I
2 entirely disagree with the options here, the
3 alternatives. I'm more an Alternative 1 than 2.
4 So I do not agree with the way things are going and
5 I just wanted to make sure that that was heard
6 here. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
8 Nick. And I just want to thank all of you for
9 coming out tonight.

10 Did you want to make a comment?

11 SCOTT CLOW: Yes.

12 MR. CAMERON: Come on down. And we
13 have one other person, so we have two more
14 commenters.

15 Go ahead. Please introduce yourself,
16 sir.

17 SCOTT CLOW: Sure. I'll be brief
18 because I know it's late. My name is Scott Clow.
19 I live in Dolores, Colorado.

20 I just wanted to -- I wasn't going to say
21 anything tonight, but one of the gentlemen who
22 spoke earlier made a comment about the other 49
23 states. Currently the uranium that's mined in
24 Southwest Colorado is transported over to Utah
25 where there is a milling facility for uranium and

T50-3

T50-3

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Konola, Claudette, Commenter ID No. T11

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

40

1 was that we look at this list of aspects that was put
2 on the board. And one was the socioeconomic aspect.
3 I demand that in the alternative there's like a \$2
4 million bond of Energy Fuels to do what? To help the
5 economy and communities survive when they go bust.
6 Because they will go bust. And they'll be stuck out
7 there with all this stuff out there and all the
8 economic travesty when they go bust.

9 Why? It happens all the time. We need a \$2
10 million bond to help this be able to survive and it
11 doesn't go bust.

12 Next I wish the whole community would have a
13 bigger vision of nuclear power, like Germany and
14 Japan, where we don't need nuclear power to survive.
15 We have other alternatives to do it.

16 We should do the same; we just need a bigger
17 vision.

18 And last I would say that Union of Concerned
19 Scientists in this country has stated there is no safe
20 level of radiation. Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eric, for those
22 comments.

23 And our next commenter is Claudette,
24 Claudette Konola.

25 CLAUDETTE KONOLA: I will probably end up



Konola, Claudette, Commenter ID No. T11 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

41

1 providing written comments. I didn't actually come
2 here with prepared comments, although I have been
3 thinking about this a lot.

4 I would support -- to the extent that I
5 support any of the proposals, I would support
6 alternative number 1, which basically reclaims the
7 land and manages it.

8 My problem is I don't know who I trust; I
9 don't know if I trust the BLM or if I trust the DOE.
10 And let me explain to you why I say that. I've just
11 recently read a book that I highly recommend to
12 everybody -- I've been telling the story to everybody
13 -- called Full Body Burden, Living in the Shadow of
14 Nuclear Rocky Flats.

15 It was a very frightening book for me,
16 because I grew up in the shadow of Rocky Flats. I
17 grew up in Arvada, Colorado, which is where the author
18 of this particular book lived and where she grew up.

19 And what I learned from reading that book is
20 that the DOE isn't always very trustworthy. And in
21 fact, when they started talking about the clean-up of
22 Rocky Flats, and when they saw how polluted it was,
23 not with uranium but with plutonium, they decided they
24 couldn't afford to clean it up.

25 And so instead of trying to figure out how

T11-1

T11-1

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

T11-2

T11-2

Comment noted.

Konola, Claudette, Commenter ID No. T11 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

42

1 to afford to clean it up, they simply raised the
2 standard of acceptable radiation.

3 My fear is that your idea of remediation may
4 not be remediation that is safe for people who
5 recreate and live around uranium mills and uranium
6 tailings.

7 I'm particularly concerned because I am a
8 cancer survivor, and I would like to know that future
9 generations are not exposed to the kinds of radiation
10 levels that are going to give them a higher risk of
11 suffering from this disease.

12 I have other problems. The Colorado River
13 has recently been reported to be the most endangered
14 river in the U.S. And mostly that has to do with the
15 amount of water that is going down the river based on
16 droughts and those kinds of things.

17 But we live in a very arid area. Everything
18 about uranium takes water, and I cannot imagine why we
19 would want to continue, in this area, sacrificing our
20 water that we need. I mean, humans cannot live
21 without water. Farmers cannot farm without water. I
22 cannot understand why we would even consider
23 sacrificing it to continue mining low-grade uranium in
24 the Uravan belt. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks. Thanks,

T11-2
(Cont.)

T11-3

T11-3

The potential impacts to water depletion in the Upper Colorado watershed are evaluated in this PEIS, and DOE has consulted with the USFWS with regards to how this water depletion would potentially impact the Colorado four endangered fish species. PEIS text has been revised to be consistent with the BA and BO (see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4).

Krute, Robert, Commenter ID No. E39

From: Robert Krute
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, May 27, 2013 3:41:55 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Robert Krute

E39-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E39-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E39-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E39-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Krute, Robert, Commenter ID No. E39 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E39-5 See responses to E39-1 and E39-2.

Krute, Robert, Commenter ID No. E77

From: Robert Krute
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 5:37:17 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Robert Krute

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Krute, Robert, Commenter ID No. E77 (Cont.)

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Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E77-5 See responses to E77-1 and E77-2.

Leas, Rebecca, Commenter ID No. E81

From: Rebecca Leas
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 9:52:57 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Leas

E81-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E81-1 E81-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

E81-2 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E81-3 E81-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E81-4 E81-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Leas, Rebecca, Commenter ID No. E81 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E81-5 See responses to E81-1 and E81-2.

Lee, Carol, Commenter ID No. E85

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: uranium leasing in San Miguel County
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 4:12:35 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Carol Lee []
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 4:08 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: uranium leasing in San Miguel County

Dear Sirs,

I am opposed to anymore uranium mining in San Miguel or Montrose counties for the following reasons:

- 1.The U.S has enough uranium stockpiled to fuel our current and projected reactors for over 100 years.
2. If the current uranium leasing program is approved it will sell our uranium to other countries. We do not need to sell to other countries. The stated purpose and need of the program proposed is for domestic supply.
3. 47% of the existing mines in the PEIS area exist within San Miguel county. The majority of our citizens have spoken out against mining uranium.
4. San Miguel county is uranium rich. Our citizens are still dealing with poorly run past uranium leasing programs. These old mines have not been cleaned up properly.This is where the money should be going!!
- 5.Uranium will never be a popular as gas, coal or renewables. No more money should be put into uranium but put into renewables.
- 6.I believe in the public hearings. I hope the DOE take the public comments seriously in the communities of Telluride, Grand Junction and Montrose.

Thank you for your time.
Carol Lee
Telluride

E85-1

E85-2

E85-3

E85-4

E85-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

E85-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

E85-3 The development of renewable energy on the ULP lease tracts is outside the scope of the PEIS and does not meet the "purpose and need" described in Section 1.4.

E85-4 Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS.

Leeds, Frank, Commenter ID No. E127

From: Frank Leeds
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 5:47 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Frank Leeds

Leonard, Betsy, Commenter ID No. E10

From: Betsy Leonard
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:08:31 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Betsy Leonard

E10-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E10-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E10-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E10-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Leonard, Betsy, Commenter ID No. E10 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E10-5 See responses to E10-1 and E10-2.

Leonard, Betsy, Commenter ID No. E62

From: Betsy Leonard
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 11:44:33 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Betsy Leonard

E62-1

E62-2

E62-3

E62-4

E62-5

E62-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E62-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E62-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E62-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Leonard, Betsy, Commenter ID No. E62 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E62-5 See responses to E62-1 and E62-2.

Light, Paul, Commenter ID No. E55

From: Paul Light
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 8:02:43 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Paul Light

E55-1

E55-2

E55-3

E55-4

E55-5

E55-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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Light, Paul, Commenter ID No. E55 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E55-5 See responses to E55-1 and E55-2.

Livingston, Catherine, Commenter ID No. E51

From: Catherine Livingston
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 11:58:03 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Catherine Livingston

E51-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E51-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E51-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E51-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Livingston, Catherine, Commenter ID No. E51 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E51-5 See responses to E51-1 and E51-2.

Lobato, Tony, Commenter ID No. T53

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

17

1 meetings.

2 Chip, please.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ray. It's

4 time now to listen to your perspectives on this,

5 and we are going to go first to Tony Lobato, then

6 Jane Thompson and John Reams.

7 TONY LOBATO: My name is Tony

8 Lobato. I have got a couple observations from this

9 program, which I support, by the way. Since the

10 conception of the DOE and the drilling of all the

11 lands around here, not only the ones that are

12 currently withdrawn, since the DOE basically

13 outlined the Uravan Mineral Belt and the vast

14 amount of that is currently held by private

15 companies and individuals, such as me -- I

16 currently have 50 mining claims in my name and as

17 an agent for 425 more, is there any way we could

18 possibly curtail this environmental impact

19 statement in part or all in the future when they

20 required us to do it --

21 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear

22 you, sir.

23 TONY LOBATO: I would really

24 appreciate it if there is some way we can

25 re-implement it because in the beginning, the DOE



T53-1

T53-1

The ULP PEIS is intended to address the purpose and need for DOE's action at the ULP lease tracts, and other uranium mining projects not within the lease tracts are outside the scope. It does, however, address other projects within the region of cumulative influence (within a 50-mile radius from the ULP lease tracts) in the cumulative impacts evaluation.

T53-1
(Cont.)

Lobato, Tony, Commenter ID No. T53 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

18

1 has done all the drilling on the Uravan Mineral
2 Belt, not just what they have got reserved. Thank
3 you.

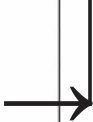
4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for your
5 comment. We are going to go to John Reams.

6 JOHN REAMS: My name is John Reams.
7 I live in Naturita. And on behalf of the Western
8 Small Miners Association, which I'm the president
9 of, we really support Alternative 4. That makes
10 the most sense to us. So we will probably put a
11 written comment together with the other stuff later
12 for you.

13 As an owner of a construction company,
14 Reams Construction Company, we have worked on the
15 reclamation of a lot of these original leases where
16 they were shut down and reclaimed, and they were
17 done very well. So we've worked for the DOE on
18 that through different contractors to do the
19 reclamation. The reclamation was done well, so I
20 don't have any problem with the way these things
21 will get reclaimed in the end.

22 And then also with the other hat on, as
23 the owner of Tomcat Mining Corporation, we actually
24 worked for Cotter Corporation in contract mining.
25 And we know how Cotter did with the mines they had

T53-1
(Cont.)



Lohmiller, Bruce, Commenter ID No. L4

safe_image.php.jpg - Gmail

Page 1 of 1



L4-1

L4-1

Comment noted.

*Pro Compression Taxi /
bruce.lohmiller@gmail.com
445 Chapala Avenue #115
Bruce Lohmiller*



Bruce Lohmiller

Mesa County Sheriff 2014

<https://mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com/attachment/u/0/?ui=2&ik=52dc6aa851&vie...> 4/2/2013

I-400

March 2014

Lyne, Beverly, Commenter ID No. T1

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

24

1 Beverly Lyne.

2 BEVERLY LYNE: I'm Beverly Lyne, and I'm a
3 community health nurse. I teach community health
4 nursing in the BSN program. And I'd like to
5 acknowledge seven of my students -- eight of my
6 students who are here. Don't give them the answers to
7 the extra credit questions, please. That's a little
8 joke. Sorry.

9 I also wanted to acknowledge that I served
10 as one of the original members of the Rocky Flats
11 Citizens Advisory Board starting in 1993, so I was
12 part of that clean-up process there. So my area of
13 expertise is more plutonium than uranium.

14 Also as an area of expertise in
15 participatory research in doing community assessment
16 and analysis, particularly working with vulnerable
17 communities and hearing and coming to consensus about
18 community needs. Just as a little groundwork.

19 So I think basically I came here to learn
20 tonight and thank the DOE for holding the hearing here
21 -- it's convenient for me -- and also to give you a
22 perspective of a community health nurse, which
23 everyone is also happy to hear.

24 And also I would like to strongly encourage
25 that the process continue to include the following,



T1-1

T1-1

DOE welcomes and appreciates public participation on the NEPA process such as the one being conducted for the ULP PEIS. This process will continue.

The leases on the ULP lease tracts require detailed plans that include descriptions of monitoring and other activities that would be conducted.

All documents cited in the PEIS are available to the public via the project web site at <http://ulpeis.anl.gov/>

Lyne, Beverly, Commenter ID No. T1 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

25

1 and that is the full involvement of communities'
2 public health professionals as well as the scientific
3 community to follow NEPA to the fullest extent in the
4 fullest intention of NEPA and including communities
5 and doing that analysis and decision making process.

6 Community assessment should provide a
7 complete assessment of the environmental issues around
8 the mines and the proposed mill to include the
9 community concerns in a way that is capturing
10 qualitative data in a way that can really inform our
11 decisions.

12 We need to have a current and explicitly
13 detailed characterization to monitor the situation and
14 the health risks that are currently posed by other
15 mediated sites as well as health risks associated with
16 each alternative and the phases of the alternatives in
17 a way that is based on our best knowledge of exposure
18 to uranium.

19 Finally, I would just refer you to the 1998
20 community assessment from the former Rocky Flats site.
21 The study utilized public health professionals to
22 produce a report that was highly useful to the DOE in
23 establishing clean-up.

24 So not the standards of the clean-up, but
25 the process around doing the clean-up and continued

T1-1
(Cont.)

Lyne, Beverly, Commenter ID No. T1 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

26

T1-1
(Cont.)

1 management of the site.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
4 very much.

5 Our next commenter is Kristin Pfaff.

6 KRISTIN PFAFF: Hi, I'm Kristin Pfaff, I'm a
7 nursing student at Colorado Mesa; I'm here with my
8 fellow students.

9 One of my fellow students, Choi, and I just
10 completed a report on the mine and its potential
11 impacts, and I wanted to echo what Beverly said and
12 just encourage a thorough investigation of all the
13 lingering potential human health threats that could
14 remain long after the mine is gone.

15 And I guess personally, I would bring up
16 that in my observations over the past 10 years, I've
17 noticed an increase in the intensity of the spring
18 dust storms that we have, and I'm hoping the
19 Environmental Impact Statement will focus some
20 research on the impacts of what is being carried in
21 the surrounding valleys during those storms. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Kristin.

24 And Thomas Acker?

25 THOMAS ACKER: I am interested in the aspect

Magoon, Janet, Commenter ID No. E64

From: Janet Magoon
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 9:54:45 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Janet Magoon

E64-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E64-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E64-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E64-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Magoon, Janet, Commenter ID No. E64 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E64-5 See responses to E64-1 and E64-2.

Magtutu, Gabe, Commenter ID No. E103

From: Gabe Magtutu
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 12:26:23 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Gabe Magtutu

E103-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E103-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E103-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E103-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Magtutu, Gabe, Commenter ID No. E103 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E103-5 See responses to E103-1 and E103-2.

L52-1 The PEIS evaluates the potential impacts to the Dolores, San Miguel, and Colorado Rivers and the aquatic biota inhabiting those rivers. Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. These measures include measures to avoid and minimize impacts to waterbodies and aquatic habitats for aquatic biota (see measures M-4 and M-7). A Biological Assessment (BA) has been prepared for consultation with the the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA (including the Colorado River endangered fish species and the Gunnison sage-grouse). PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO; see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4. Information on the desert bighorn sheep is provided in Section 3.6.2.3 of the PEIS. As evident from Table 3.6-15 in that section, the ULP lease tracts encompass only a small portion of the desert bighorn sheep activity areas within the three-county ULP study area. Potential impacts on bighorn sheep are addressed in Section 4.3.6.2 of the PEIS. DOE did consult with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) regarding the desert bighorn sheep during the preparation of the PEIS. Exclusion buffers from the Dolores River and sage grouse habitats, as well as desert bighorn sheep habitat protection or offsite habitat enhancement, may also be conditions of permits and lease requirements for mine sites. The Service, CPW, and BLM will have input on mitigation actions required under the ULP during their review of the EPPs.

L52-2 The evaluations presented in the PEIS are based on site-specific information available (see Section 1.3 for a summary of the site-specific information).

DOE believes that the PEIS evaluation is adequate in addressing the range of reasonable alternatives consistent with the purpose and need described in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Mallard, Angela, Commenter ID No. L52

I am writing to express my concern about the 27,000 acre uranium leaching program in San Miguel, Montrose & Mesa Counties. I am a white water kayaker and a river lover. The Dolores River is an iconic tributary of the Colorado River and is well loved by river users across the country. I feel like the impacts to this gem of a river and its habitat were not appropriately considered, I am appalled that some of these

L52-1

claims fall directly on the river. We have to consider the endangered Colorado River fish, the others, the bighorn sheep & the Gunnison sage grouse. We must preserve this river basin which is a regional treasure. Please reconsider the PEIS using REAL field analysis of current site conditions, economic analysis of remediation & reuse of the sites US re-basin & attempt to pay for clean up. Thank you,
Angela Mallard
Box 2772
Telluride CO.
81435

L52-2

L52-1
(Cont.)

Maragon, Lisa, Commenter ID No. E41

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:55:49 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Lisa Maragon [mailto:lisamaragon@colorado.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 5:24 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Maragon

E41-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

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E41-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E41-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E41-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Maragon, Lisa, Commenter ID No. E41 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E41-5 See responses to E41-1 and E41-2.

Maragon, Lisa, Commenter ID No. E76

From: Lisa Maragon
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 4:37:02 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Maragon

E76-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E76-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E76-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E76-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Maragon, Lisa, Commenter ID No. E76 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E76-5 See responses to E76-1 and E76-2.

Marquardt, Michael, Commenter ID No. E34

From: Michael Marquardt
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 11:53:43 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I believe I have written before to ask, "why do we need a uranium mine?" I am writing again to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor"^{xxx} environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Michael Marquardt

E34-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E34-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E34-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E34-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In any case, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Marquardt, Michael, Commenter ID No. E34 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E34-5 See responses to E34-1 and E34-2.

Marvel, Gail, Commenter ID No. W4

Thank you for your comment, Gail Marvel.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50004.

Comment Date: April 18, 2013 07:42:26AM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50004

First Name: Gail
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Marvel
Organization:
Address: 735 South Park Ave
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Montrose
State: CO
Zip: 81401
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

RE: uranium program Montrose County
Please include me as a constituent who supports the fourth alternative listed in the draft PEIS, which would continue the program for at least the next ten years.

Failure to keep the program will have a negative effect on economic development for the West End of Montrose County.

W4-1

W4-1

Comment noted. DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

May, Joan, Commenter ID No. T49

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 Welcome to Telluride, by the way.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

3 We are going to go to our final two speakers, and
4 one is Joan May and Nick Kolachov. This is Joan.

5 JOAN MAY: Hi. I'm Joan May, and
6 I'm a San Miguel County Commissioner, and San
7 Miguel County is one of the cooperating agencies so
8 we have been quite involved with this process. And
9 you have received comments from us in the past and
10 you will receive comments this time. Something
11 happens when you speak. It seems like the clock
12 goes faster, so I'm going to try and be respectful
13 of the time frame and everybody has been here for a
14 long time.

15 My comments that I will make outside of
16 our written comments are: I think you know that
17 this is Telluride's off season, and there are a lot
18 of people who are very concerned about this issue
19 who aren't here tonight. You came here I think it
20 was about a year and a half ago in the summer. We
21 had a meeting at the opera house and there were a
22 lot of comments. Tonight we heard the same
23 comments really. Very passionate, very
24 knowledgeable people who understand the issue and
25 understand the impacts to our region. I hope you



T49-1

T49-1

The evaluations presented in the PEIS for the various resources do address the potential impacts to San Miguel County. Based on the results of the PEIS evaluation and with implementation of mitigation measures, DOE believes that DOE's preferred alternative (Alternative 4) can be conducted in a manner that would be protective of human health and the environment.

Mr. Joan, Commenter ID No. T49 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 will listen to the comments and read the comments
2 again from the previous meeting because they
3 haven't changed. They were just more plentiful
4 then, even though it's pretty plentiful now.

5 The only other comment I really have is
6 that if you look at the map -- and thank you for
7 providing that in the beginning -- San Miguel
8 County really is where this lease program has a
9 great effect. If you look across the Western
10 Slope, we have more leased parcels than the
11 counties around us, and we feel that we deserve a
12 say in how our land is used here because it affects
13 us directly.

14 It's been mentioned many times that the
15 purpose and need for this program is stated. It's
16 for energy, but we hope that you will consider that
17 domestic use of the uranium that's mined should be
18 the only use of it, and there really isn't demand
19 for that at this point. Let's not squander what we
20 have and our resources that we have in our ground
21 here. Let's keep those for when we have a purpose
22 and need for them that we know how to deal with
23 effectively, if that time ever comes. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Joan, and
25 please come down, Nick.

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T49-1
(Cont.)

T49-2

T49-2 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

McKenney, Tom, Commenter ID No. E88

From: Tom.McKenney
To: mail_ulpeis
Cc:
Subject: PEIS - Comment on Reopening Uranium Mines
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2013 7:06:01 PM

Please consider the actual need here in the United States for this specific resource. This may well be better saved for a "rainy day" as opposed to selling this resource all over the world. I do not believe that enough study was done to determine which of these mines are in more sensitive areas (on edge of Dolores River, sensitive micro environments, etc.,) and therefore should be taken off the list thereby reducing the arc of devastation.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Tom McKenney

Tom McKenney

E88-1

E88-1

The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

McTavish, Jodie, Commenter ID No. T16

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

1 And after looking at the Energy Fuels home
2 page, I understand that they will bring jobs to
3 Colorado. And I really appreciate that, because they
4 want to help us out when economy is really bad.

5 But at the same time, it's really important
6 for us to keep in mind the long-term effect of the
7 uranium mining.

8 The jobs will bring money to the economy for
9 a short term, but it's really important for us to
10 think about will this money help the residents of
11 Colorado to pay for their healthcare causes when they
12 are diagnosed with cancer or anything related to the
13 mining.

14 And I just thought that is important for us
15 to think about the short-term economy impact compared
16 to a long-term healthcare impact.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

18 Does anybody else want to make a comment?
19 And let's go to you first; come up and introduce
20 yourself, please.

21 And then we'll go to you.

22 JODIE MCTAVISH: My name is Jodie McTavish,
23 and I worked at the Department of Energy as support
24 services in the Laboratory. And we spent years
25 analyzing the samples and dealing with the remediation



T16-1

T16-1

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

McTavish, Jodie, Commenter ID No. T16 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 and clean-up, and it's still not all cleaned up.

2 So we're spending -- or we have spent
3 millions and millions of dollars trying to clean up
4 this mess.

5 I do want to make a couple of comments about
6 previous comments that were made. One was about being
7 open to other technologies. I believe what the
8 gentleman is referring to is thorium powered generated
9 plants. But we're not talking about thorium here,
10 we're talking about uranium.

11 Yes, it's worth pursuing the thorium issue,
12 but that's not the topic this evening.

13 I also want to make a comment that was made
14 to me years ago by a gentleman from a Canadian company
15 who was here. His comment was, is that one of the
16 reasons they like to do business in the United States
17 is that our regulations are much less rigorous than
18 they are in Canada, so they were more than willing to
19 want to come here and develop our resources rather
20 than doing business in their own country.

21 And I think that the health issues and the
22 long-term impacts are not being addressed. I think
23 the gentleman came up and spoke about comments, and he
24 was making statistics about safety issues. Those are
25 only safety issues in the processing. This isn't the

T16-1
(Cont.)

T16-1
(Cont.)

McTavish, Jodie, Commenter ID No. T16 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 long-term health effects that affect people and create
2 cancer and all the other health issues that are
3 related to this industry.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jodie.

5 And yes, ma'am, would you join us up here?

6 JOAN WOODWARD: Good evening. I hadn't
7 planned to speak tonight, partly because I don't have
8 much of a voice. So I'll make this very brief.

9 The individual who's sitting with the
10 environmental engineer, Energy Fuels, I believe was
11 the name, he said there were two reasons, as I recall,
12 why the project should go forward: One was the need
13 for jobs and the other was a need for more energy
14 production.

15 In terms of the need for energy production
16 domestically, my understanding is we don't need
17 uranium; we have more than enough other resources.
18 The natural gas industry is doing very well. We don't
19 need uranium here with all of the consequences.

20 In terms of the jobs, I don't think there
21 are that many jobs that would actually be generated at
22 this point in opening up some of these leases. I also
23 think we could put those people to work much better in
24 terms of alternative energy rather than uranium.

25 I am concerned as well about water -- other

T16-1
(Cont.)

Mercer, Karen, Commenter ID No. E66

From: Karen Mercer
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 11:20:55 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Mercer
Montrose CO 81401

PS: You can't undo a uranium mess. It is permanent for many many generations to come.

Karen Mercer

E66-1

E66-2

E66-3

E66-4

E66-5

E66-1

DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E66-2

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E66-3

DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E66-4

DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Mercer, Karen, Commenter ID No. E66 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E66-5 See responses to E66-1 and E66-2.

Michaelis, Karen, Commenter ID No. E14

From: Karen Michaelis
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:34:36 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Karen Michaelis

E14-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E14-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E14-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E14-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Michaelis, Karen, Commenter ID No. E14 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E14-5 See responses to E14-1 and E14-2.

Miller, Glen, Commenter ID No. T6

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

1 I'm an environmental engineer for Energy Fuels. And
2 Energy Fuels has eight of the lease blocks that are
3 included in this program. I just want to state my
4 comment that these eight lease blocks provide a big
5 portion of our resources, and they're important to us
6 to help supply domestic uranium and provide jobs in
7 the community. Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ryan.

9 Glen Miller, do you want to speak to us?

10 This is Glen Miller.



11 GLEN MILLER: I'm Glen Miller. I live in
12 Grand Junction. What was that radio show? "I use to
13 work in that town." I worked with the USGS Map and
14 Geology and whatnot in that area back a half century
15 ago. And I'll be brief.

16 I think we need to continue to allow DOE to
17 manage those leases, not BLM. A lot of people don't
18 agree with me, but I have some facts -- well, they
19 seem to be facts -- they're not from the federal
20 government, but the National Science Foundation that
21 energy from nuclear sources is our safest form of a
22 great volume amount of energy.

23 I'll give you some numbers: Mortality
24 rates. If nuclear is 1 in terms of mortality rate,
25 rooftop fatality, manufacturing, the whole thing --

T6-1

T6-1

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Miller, Glen, Commenter ID No. T6 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

31

1 people fall off roofs -- is five times as dangerous.

2 Wind is six times more dangerous; hydro is
3 15 times more dangerous. And I'll just mention coal,
4 and we've got a lot of coal. But coal is, in the
5 United States -- this is per megawatt produced --
6 1,600 times more dangerous in terms of fatalities.

7 We have a lot of uranium, and as far as I
8 can tell, some sort of nuclear power and solar power
9 is the future. We're not going to run out of it. If
10 we had (inaudible), I'm sure they're going to be
11 developed. That would increase uranium in the ground.
12 We have the factor -- the utility of it, a factor of
13 15.

14 So those are some things to think about in
15 the long term. It's safe and there's an awful lot of
16 it. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Glen.

18 Virgil Fenn?

19 VIRGIL FENN: That would be me. I'm up here
20 to appeal -- mainly I want to pitch a book. I'd like
21 you to open your mind, both sides of it there, and do
22 some research.

23 There is more misinformation --

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Use the mic, Virgil. We
25 can't hear you.

T6-1
(Cont.)

Miller, Linda, Commenter ID No. T41

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

45

1 time frame.

2 And specifically under three areas --
3 under visual resources, for instance, that's the
4 longest list under Alternative 4 of effects to
5 landmarks and significant landscapes in our region.
6 And that is related part and parcel to our
7 livelihood here.

8 Under transportation, the increase in the
9 amount of truck traffic is on a scenic byway;
10 again, part of our livelihood, and it also affects
11 bicycle tourism. And, in general, I do not see
12 where recreation has been adequately evaluated.

13 Under socioeconomics, I don't believe
14 that they account at all for our current
15 activities, which include agriculture, grazing and
16 organic farming, as well as recreation.

17 So in summary, I do not support your
18 alternative. I appreciate the opportunity to
19 comment. I think we should focus on renewables and
20 conservation and add provisions for climate change
21 and our weather events. Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. This is
23 Linda Miller, then we'll go to Ashley Boling.

24 LINDA MILLER: Linda Miller of
25 Telluride. Thank you for this opportunity.



T41-1

T41-1

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Miller, Linda, Commenter ID No. T41 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 I consider myself a citizen of this area,
2 and part of my responsibility is to be a steward of
3 this land and our resources. I don't think we've
4 been doing a very good job taking care of the
5 messes that we have created. San Miguel and
6 Telluride have a really good history of knowing
7 what it means not to reclamate what we have done.

8 And I base it on a history of an area
9 that you probably drove through coming here, and
10 that was the Newmir vanadium -- where's the
11 vanadium man? -- mill site on Highway 145, six
12 miles west of Telluride. The mill was originally
13 developed in 1908, encompassing approximately 15
14 acres consisting of the former mill area, tailing
15 disposal area, and other facilities used to support
16 the milling operation. It operated from 1920 until
17 the 1950s when the ore was depleted.

18 Not until 1998 when it was sold to Cyprus
19 Amax was there an agreement mandating remedial
20 activities. At that time, the EPA and the Colorado
21 Department of Public Health and Environment
22 conducted a site assessment and determined that
23 subsurface residual radioactivity existed on both
24 sides of Highway 145. Historical photos confirm
25 that the highway that was built went right through

T41-1
(Cont.)

Miller, Linda, Commenter ID No. T41 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 the mill site. More important, the lower side was
2 in the San Miguel river floodplain. The cleanup
3 was 60 years in the making. So we know about how
4 long it takes.

5 Today the public is told operations are
6 vastly improved. The state of the art, best
7 operating procedures are in place, all kinds of
8 technology. The industry is well prepared.
9 However, the BP's Deepwater Horizon blowout gave
10 lie to the state of the advances and our reliance
11 upon them. There will be accidents.

12 On October 1, 2012, a rollover involving
13 a tanker illustrated the vulnerability in the
14 systems now in place. The accident occurred at
15 Mile 24, Highway 141. The truck was carrying
16 liquid asphalt. The trucking company was
17 responsible and contacted a company called Storage
18 Tank Technologies. Cleanup operations require a
19 permit from the Colorado transportation department,
20 as it was in their right-of-way. The Colorado
21 State Patrol responded to the scene, but it
22 oversees the cleanup; it's not responsible for the
23 cleanup. CDOT issued a permit October 9th but was
24 not aware it was an emergency. Perhaps they were
25 not told it was liquid asphalt.

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T41-2

T41-2

However infrequent, the uranium ore trucking companies have response contractors responsible for initial spill cleanup should an accident occur. CDOT and other agencies such as BLM may be required to provide permits for cleanup dependent on location. It is not expected that cleanup operations would involve an extended cleanup period due to cooperation among any state and federal agencies involved. As an example, an ore truck spilled its load over an embankment on U.S. 50, seven miles south of Salida, CO, on Thursday, February, 16, 2006. The highway was reopened the night of the accident after the initial spill cleanup. The area down the embankment where the majority of the ore spilled was stabilized the following morning. Despite the upcoming holiday (President's Day was the coming Monday), permits were obtained over the weekend from CDOT and BLM for cleanup activities. Through cooperation among the trucking company, its cleanup contractors, the milling facility that was the original destination for the ore shipment, CDOT, BLM, and CDPHE, the spill was cleaned up and the site remediated by the following Thursday, February 23.

Miller, Linda, Commenter ID No. T41 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 To complicate matters further, the spill
2 site was archeologically rich and teams from the
3 Bureau of Land Management had to do an assessment
4 before they could bring in a bulldozer to clean it
5 up so no artifacts would be destroyed.

6 The spill only came to the attention of
7 authorities when the San Miguel County sheriff was
8 out riding on his motorcycle on his day off. Over
9 two weeks has passed before the cleanup began.
10 Granted, the casualties were birds caught in the
11 sticky stuff and not humans.

12 I describe this sequence of errors just
13 to illustrate that the emergency procedures are not
14 there and there are all kinds of bureaucratic
15 blocks to getting things done quickly. So you can
16 only imagine what kind of conditions we'll have
17 when there are uranium trucks going up and down
18 those roads.

19 These leases that are especially on the
20 river, on the Dolores and on our waterways, it's
21 our lifeblood, and they have to be protected.
22 Before more mining takes place -- and I'm for
23 Alternative 1, no mining taking place -- please
24 clean up the old sites, examine the potential for
25 highway accidents, and assess the availability of

T41-2
(Cont)

T41-3

T41-3

Mitigation measures have been identified in the PEIS to provide a 1/4 mile buffer and minimize any potential impacts to the Dolores River and the waterways (see Section 4.6 and Table 4.6-1).

T41-4

T41-4

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Miller, Linda, Commenter ID No. T41 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 emergency response for those events.

2 Remediation must be timely and complete.

3 Citizens cannot settle for less and the private

4 endeavors must post adequate bonds so the taxpayer

5 is not left with the bill. It's interesting to

6 note at the headwaters of the San Miguel, we have a

7 Superfund site. Right up there, and so far, it's

8 not complying with the consent decree. At the end

9 of the San Miguel, we have another Superfund site.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Linda, can --

11 LINDA MILLER: I'm done. I don't

12 want the San Miguel to be a sacrifice area. Thank

13 you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,

15 Linda. Ashley Boling and then Linda Thurston.

16 ASHLEY BOLING: Hi. My name is

17 Ashley Boling. I live in San Miguel County. I'm a

18 father. I'm a resident for the last 23 years here.

19 Just to be clear with everyone in this

20 room, I'm against any further uranium mining, any

21 current or proposed in the future uranium mining

22 and/or milling.

23 I recognize a lot of people in the crowd

24 here. Could you raise your hand if anyone is here

25 from Energy Fuels Corporation. Anyone here?

T41-4
(Cont.)

T41-4
(Cont.)

Mitchell, Dennis, Commenter ID No. T19

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

1 PATRICK SIGLIN: Evening, everyone. My name
2 is Patrick Siglin, I'm a geologist for Black Range
3 Minerals; we're a uranium mining company and have an
4 office located in Golden, Colorado, and Canon City.

5 And I support the Department of Energy's
6 recommendation on this PEIS. I support it because I
7 believe that the mining of uranium through the
8 generation of power by using uranium can be done
9 safely and efficiently. And therefore, I believe that
10 it is in the best interest of Montrose County, Mesa
11 County, San Miguel County, the directly surrounding
12 areas, the state of Colorado and the United States of
13 America to follow the recommendation of the Department
14 of Energy at this point. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Patrick.
16 Dennis?

17 DENNIS MITCHELL: My name is Dennis
18 Mitchell; I've lived in Montrose for 36 years. I
19 support the biggest amount of leases that you can
20 open. For the simple reason that we don't mine our
21 resources in this country; we mine from somewhere
22 else, and they pollute a lot worse than us. If you
23 want to go look and see what they do in China, look on
24 the Internet and see the mining there.

25 I've been involved in mining and minerals my



T19-1

T19-1 Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

T19-2

T19-2 See response to T19-1.

Mitchell, Dennis, Commenter ID No. T19 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

22


1 whole life, and this is important, because we don't
 2 have this resource too much in this country. Uranium
 3 is hard to find, and we have to buy it from countries
 4 we are not friends with. They will cut us off one
 5 day.

6 This stuff does not kill you. It's in my
 7 pocket.

8 There is another problem, too. We have a
 9 small group of people in this country that fight
 10 everything over and over again. A lot of them in
 11 Telluride, who brought the last lawsuit, they used
 12 more energy, they used more gas in their cars, and
 13 they used more heat in their homes. Yet they fight
 14 everything.

15 They would close our coal plant down, they
 16 will close this down, they'll close our oil and gas
 17 down. And this has got to stop, because it's costing
 18 all of us a fortune to live.

19 That's my comment. Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dennis. 

21 And Susie, can you come up?

22 SUSIE ADAMSON: Okay. Maybe you guys can
 23 understand me. I hope so. My name is Susie Adamson;
 24 I'm a Colorado native; I was born here.

25 MR. CAMERON: Susie, can I can interrupt

T19-2
(Cont.)

T19-3

T19-3 See response to T19-1.

Moreng, Joseph, Commenter ID No. E33

From: [Joe Moreng](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up First
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2013 11:16:31 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I know that we need sources of uranium in the US, but believe that a program to clean up the old sites needs to be in place before any new mining is permitted.

Sincerely,

Joseph Moreng

Joe Moreng

E33-1

E33-1

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Myers, Chris, Commenter ID No. T33

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

23

1 starts with the DOE. It starts with you.

2 Sorry. I forgot to introduce myself.

3 I'm Bob Saunders, Mayor Pro Tem of Telluride,
4 although I'm speaking for myself. Thank you for
5 your time.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Now we
7 will go to Chris. This is Chris Myers.

8 CHRIS MYERS: My name is Chris
9 Myers. I serve on the Telluride Town Council and I
10 have for three years, but I'm here tonight speaking
11 as a citizen. Given that the comment period for
12 written comments has until May 31st, it's likely
13 that the Telluride Town Council will issue formal
14 written comments and send those along shortly.

15 First, I would like to address some
16 broader issues, which I think Bob touched on.
17 First and foremost is that in 60 years of nuclear
18 industry in this country, we have failed as a
19 country politically and as citizens to ever come up
20 with a place for disposal of radioactive waste.
21 I'm absolutely flabbergasted that we are
22 considering increasing the supply of uranium in the
23 marketplace when we have failed miserably. Nobody
24 wants it in any of their communities, in their
25 backyard, so why are we even considering the



T33-1

T33-1

Waste generated in addition to waste rock (which is mostly rock material removed to get to the ore deposits and is stockpiled and retained at the mine site location and then subsequently graded to a preferred slope, provided with a protective top-cover material, and seeded during reclamation) is either taken to a local landfill with a small amount of low-level radioactive waste, taken to the mill for processing along with the ore produced, or taken to a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

Myers, Chris, Commenter ID No. T33 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 possibility of expanding supply in this country.

2 Two, in 2008, there was a general
3 accounting office report that basically looked at
4 the revenues generated by the oil and gas industry
5 by leases and royalties and also looked at those
6 royalties and leases, lease income, generated by
7 the hardrock mining industry and found them
8 woefully inadequate based on the 1872 mining law.

9 There was a Congressional initiative that
10 has still failed to try and change that situation,
11 but there's potentially hundreds of millions of
12 dollars of royalties that are not secured by the
13 mining of uranium and other hardrock minerals,
14 which is basically taking away the legacy and
15 royalties from future generations in this country.
16 So I don't think that we should be even exploring
17 more extraction of hardrock minerals until we
18 figure out how we can better sustain income for the
19 public.

20 Three, on national security, there's no
21 guarantee that this uranium that is mined is going
22 to serve the United States. Quite likely, it could
23 be mined by foreign countries and exported to other
24 nations. How does that benefit the national
25 security? The Atomic Energy Act and the DOE

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T33-1
(Cont.)

T33-2

T33-2 The evaluation of the generation of revenues from mining is outside the scope of the PEIS and does not meet the purpose and need described in Section 1.4 of the PEIS.

T33-3 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

T33-3

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

I-437

March 2014

Myers, Chris, Commenter ID No. T33 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

25

1 policies before to manage the Uranium Leasing
2 Program was for national security. These lands
3 were isolated and maintained after World War II for
4 the benefit of the U.S. people and the government.

5 That seems to be missing from this discussion.

6 Four, recently the Town of Telluride was
7 trying to appeal to the Colorado Department of
8 Public Health and Environment to protect the
9 Telluride environment and San Miguel County. They
10 were looking at permitting -- which is still in the
11 permitting process -- the first uranium mill to be
12 approved in 25 years 55 miles upwind from
13 Telluride.

14 In order for Telluride to protect its
15 environment and the health of our community, we are
16 having to spend our own dollars to conduct a
17 baseline study to establish a baseline for
18 radionuclide presence in fugitive dust or in our
19 water supplies here in this part of our county.
20 Why are we doing that, and the CDPHE, our state
21 government, is not doing that? Is the federal
22 government prepared to help us protect our
23 environment, should this program go forward with
24 the leasing of these public lands? I don't believe
25 so, and I don't have the confidence in what's been

T33-3
(Cont.)

T33-4

T33-4

The region of influence or ROI analyzed for potential cumulative impacts included the Telluride area. See discussion in Section 4.7 and Figure 4.7-1 for a map showing the areas covered in the analysis.

Myers, Chris, Commenter ID No. T33 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

26

1 demonstrated to me by our state government.

2 Addressing the PEIS specifically: A,
3 water. Water is the new gold in the wild west.
4 Civilizations rise and fall based on water
5 supplies. When I was reading outside -- and I need
6 to read more deeply into the PEIS -- I saw a figure
7 of 8 million gallons per year used for Alternative
8 5. There was no such figure for Alternative 4, but
9 it was said to be similar. I would love to know
10 where that number is coming from; where that water
11 is coming from. It's a critical issue. That is
12 the mineral we should be preserving for the
13 economies and the people of this region. I will
14 come back to some other issues with water as it
15 relates to climate change.

16 It doesn't appear that the PEIS addresses
17 the changing climate issues. Though there are some
18 parcels which I completely object to that are
19 immediately adjacent to the shores of the Dolores
20 River, meaning that there's virtually an
21 impossibility of protecting our watershed from
22 contamination, but when you have lease parcels that
23 appear in an arid environment and we're getting
24 more and more violent events that create
25 flash-flooding -- the 100-year events seem to be

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T33-4
(Cont.)

T33-5

T33-5

The volume of water that is assumed to be needed for implementing the alternatives is based on historical or past mining conducted at the ULP lease tracts as discussed in Section 2.2. The volume of water assumed for Alternative 4 is presented in Table 2.2-5 and totals 6.3 million gallons per year for all the mines assumed to operate during a peak year.

The water would most likely be purchased from Nucla or Naturita as has been the case in the past.

T33-6

T33-6

Climate change was evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1) in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) generated by the ULP proposed action for the five alternatives, respectively. The results indicate that the ULP proposed action contributes a very small percentage to both Colorado, and U.S. GHG generated (up to 0.03% and 0.0005%, respectively). U.S. GHG emissions account for about one-fifth of global GHG emissions, and GHG emissions from ULP proposed action are up to about 0.0001%. The amount of GHG generated is generally used as a measure of the potential impacts on climate change. In contrast, ULP operations (followed by power generations at nuclear power plants) would displace considerable amounts of criteria and toxic air pollutants, and GHG emissions that would otherwise be released from fossil power plants. Accordingly, ULP operations would contribute to more positive impacts than adverse impacts on climate change. The text in the PEIS has been revised (see the same sections mentioned previously) to explain further how potential impacts from climate change were analyzed for the PEIS and what the results mean.

Myers, Chris, Commenter ID No. T33 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

27

1 more like 25-year events now. I think we are
2 basing data on the effect in terms of weather
3 impacts and rainfall patterns -- it's old. We need
4 to be revising that and looking at what is
5 currently affecting our weather patterns.

6 Third, in terms of the reclamation of
7 Alternatives 1 or 2, it seems to sound pretty awful
8 that there is going to be dust disturbance and
9 invasive weeds, and I'd like to see that if we are
10 going to be looking at reclaiming in Alternatives 1
11 and 2, which are the two that I would favor at this
12 point, is that I would like to see a thorough study
13 done because maybe some sites don't need to be
14 touched, if there aren't issues there.

15 MR. CAMERON: Chris, I'm going to
16 have to ask you to sum up for us now.

17 CHRIS MYERS: Terrific. I have two
18 last points.

19 On endangered species, just in brief, in
20 hearing -- I heard in informal consultation with
21 the Fish and Wildlife that there's not likely to be
22 adverse effects, I support that you are revising
23 your BA, and I hope we get new data on the
24 endangered species.

25 E, I was frustrated to read about the

T33-6
(Cont.)

T33-7

T33-7

The implementation of any alternative would be conducted with careful examination and determination of actual conditions at the time of implementation, and areas that need to be addressed or specific activities that would be conducted would be optimized and carried out in conformance of applicable regulatory requirements and best management practices.

T33-8

T33-8

PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

T33-9

T33-9

Sections 4.1.8.1, 4.2.8, 4.3.8.1, 4.4.8.1, and 4.5.8.1 of the PEIS examine how a reduction in the recreation economy in the ROI could impact the local economy. In addition, text has been added to reflect non-economic impacts to recreation in the ROI. In addition, an overview of periods of boom and bust economic conditions in the ROI has been added to Section 3.8.

Myers, Chris, Commenter ID No. T33 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

28

1 socioeconomic impacts. They seem to have been
2 written in a vacuum. It says refer to the land use
3 impacts. They don't reflect a geographic study and
4 examination of our region. I think that's
5 sufficient to say, but given the billion-dollar
6 impact of our economy in this region that's based
7 on recreation and a state that has one of the
8 strongest renewable energy economies in the
9 country, I think we need to be looking at this
10 very, very differently.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much
13 for your specific comments, and we are going to
14 hear from Shauna. This is Shauna Palmer coming up.

15 SHAUNA PALMER: Shauna Palmer, area
16 resident, property owner, and taxpayer. Thank you
17 for this opportunity to comment.

18 Some quick questions that I jotted down.
19 I'm not asking for answers right now, but when I
20 heard your presentation, I'm just curious to hear
21 why the County prefers Alternative 1 to Alternative
22 2. Not that I'm questioning it; I just -- it would
23 be great to hear.

24 The two lease tracts that will remain
25 inactive indefinitely, I'm curious on what basis

T33-9
(Cont.)

Name Withheld, Commenter ID No. W2

Thank you for your comment

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50002.

Comment Date: April 3, 2013 18:09:44PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50002

First Name: [Withheld by requestor]
Middle Initial: [Withheld by requestor]
Last Name: [Withheld by requestor]
Organization:
Address:
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: [Withheld by requestor]
State: [Withheld by requestor]
Zip: [Withheld by requestor]
Country: [Withheld by requestor]
Privacy Preference: Withhold name and address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

The proposed Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill has the potential to impact not only the region immediately surrounding the Paradox Valley, but also all of the communities downwind and downstream. The application for the proposed mill does not meet the basic requirements to protect the environment and public health and safety.

I

Pino Ridge Uranium Mill -It's dangers and lack of \$ producing!

- I am concerned about radioactive air pollution from the mill traveling downwind across most of Colorado and contaminating drinking water supplies.
 - Where will the water come from to both operate the mill and keep the radioactive tailings from blowing into the airstream? I am concerned about the impacts on the Colorado River Basin, already experiencing severe drought conditions.
 - I am concerned that any ground water contamination from the proposed tailings piles will eventually flow to the Dolores and Colorado River, contaminating drinking water supplies downstream. The state has ignored ground-water contamination from the Cotter Mill in Canyon City, CO. Man-made tailings piles eventually leak. Why repeat the mistakes of our past and create a new toxic legacy in SW Colorado.
 - As we see the impacts from the boom and bust cycles of the extractive industries impact communities across Colorado, I am concerned about the socioeconomic impacts on the rural communities of SW Colorado and the potential impacts on the tourist dependent communities directly downwind.
 - The Colorado Plateau and specifically the Dolores River Basin is one of the most treasured landscapes of the west. We do not want to destroy the land, for false dreams of mineral wealth!
 - I am concerned about the impacts on our roads from increased heavy truck traffic and the transport of radioactive materials to processing plants outside the U.S.
 - The proposed \$1M bond is woefully inadequate to pay the actual remediation costs and if history repeats itself, the owners will walk away leaving the responsibility to our children the taxpayers.
- I appreciate your thorough consideration of the proposed mill. State regulators have fallen well short of their mission to protect the environment and public health of Colorado to date in this process. We ask that you carefully consider the first uranium mill proposed in 30 years in our state and either deny this application or impose strong conditions to ensure the protection of both public health and environment.
- Sincerely,

W2-1

W2-1

The cumulative impacts analyzed in this PEIS include the potential impacts of the proposed Piñon Ridge Mill. See Section 4.7.1.1.

Name Withheld, Commenter ID No. W9

Thank you for your comment

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50009.

Comment Date: April 25, 2013 18:24:31PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50009

First Name: [Withheld by requestor]
Middle Initial:
Last Name: [Withheld by requestor]
Organization: Self
Address: [Withheld by requestor]
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: [Withheld by requestor]
State: [Withheld by requestor]
Zip: [Withheld by requestor]
Country: [Withheld by requestor]
Privacy Preference: Withhold name and address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I have watched with great concern as the Western Colorado Congress and Sierra Club have advocated in recent days for a complete re-analysis of the leasing procedure in the Uravan Uranium Belt.

Please do not be swayed and a well organized and well funded minority that are seeking to completely eliminate Uranium development from western Colorado.

Please proceed with the expanded program alternative in a deliberate and EXPEDIENT manner.

Western Colorado is depending on the continued recovery of it's Uranium Industry and the majority of it's citizens are depending on DOE to complete the EIS and finalize the leasing process.

Existing leases should not be reconsidered or rescinded for any reason.

W9-1

W9-1

Comment noted. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Name Withheld, Commenter ID No. L27



DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D)
U.S. Department of Energy

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM
Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Comment: I want to see uranium being mined in Western Colorado. It can be done safely and we need uranium production for the benefit of our County.

Sincerely, _____

Please use other side if more space is needed.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record.
- Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to:
Mr. Ray Plieness
DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to:
ulpeis@anl.gov

L27-1

L27-1

Comment noted. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

Niederkruger, Eric, Commenter ID No. T4

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

28

1 preferred process, which is number 4. I have to ask
2 myself, the Department of Energy, if they've made up
3 their minds and there's a preferred process, I really
4 am curious to know how much impact any of our
5 statements will have on the decision making process.
6 It's a concern of mine as a small-d democrat. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Thomas. And I know
9 that the DOE staff and other experts will, when we
10 finish the meeting -- not only are you going to be
11 able to ask them questions about the information, but
12 they might want to explore some of the comments that
13 they've heard tonight such as that one. So thank you
14 very much for those comments.

15 We're going to go to Eric Niederkruger.

16 If you could come up to the podium?

17 ERIC NIEDERKRUGER: Good evening. I
18 submitted written comments, and I have just a few
19 brief comments now in person I'd like to say.

20 First off, I'd like to thank everybody who
21 came here tonight, despite the billions of dollars
22 that have been spent to keep you at home watching
23 television.

24 I get melancholy when I look around my
25 virtual neighborhood and I hear such bittersweet terms



T4-1

T4-1

Comment noted. Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Niederkruger, Eric, Commenter ID No. T4 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

29

1 bandied about such as "legacy." I've been very
2 blessed in my life and I very much want to implicate a
3 sense in my descendants of honor. Several generations
4 from now, may all our natives be remembered with honor
5 and joy.

6 Unfortunately, long before then, the true
7 scope of the Fukushima reactor meltdown from Japan has
8 begun to be felt in our Pacific Northwest and, indeed,
9 much of the world. It's a current event issue that is
10 being suppressed by the mainstream media that we
11 should all be very concerned about in addition to this
12 issue.

13 I'm not suggesting that uranium is fuel
14 incarnate; I am suggesting it is our biggest challenge
15 to fully remediate.

16 In sum, I'm not a big fan of big federal
17 government, and no energy source is more intertwined
18 with the big federal government than nuclear power.

19 This alone is enough for me, but there's so
20 much more. Remember the word "legacy." In this case,
21 it is a euphemism for toxic radioactive waste.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eric.

24 We're going to go to Ryan Ellis next.

25 RYAN ELLIS: Hello, my name is Ryan Ellis.

T4-1
(Cont.)



Oakes, Meagan, Commenter ID No. W17

Thank you for your comment, Meagan Oakes.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50017.

Comment Date: June 4, 2013 22:01:41PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50017

First Name: Meagan
Middle Initial: W
Last Name: Oakes
Organization:
Address: 329 Wayne Robertson Rd
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Chatham
State: VA
Zip: 24531
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

HELL NO WE WONT GLOW!!! HELL NO WE WON'T GLOW!!!

W17-1

W17-1 Comment noted.

Oday, Kv, Commenter ID No. L12



April 17, 2013

ATTN: Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

RE: Draft Uranium Leasing Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Plieness and DOE staff members:

There appears to be a concerted effort in this country, and in this part of the west in particular, to bring any and all mining activity to a halt. This is irrational and irresponsible.

There is expected to be a uranium shortage in the coming years, as the benefits of nuclear power become more widely realized and nuclear-powered plants become more widespread around the world.

If the goal is environmental conservation, it needs to be noted that if we do not mine for that uranium--some other country will, and chances are very good that that country's environmental standards fall well short of ours.

Our environmental standards are sufficiently high that we can have mining projects such as the one this PEIS was drafted for, without incurring any significant environmental impacts on the land, water, air or habitat.

I highly doubt that any other country on earth, with the quantity of uranium that we have, would so thoroughly examine each and every aspect of the natural environment that potentially could be in some way impacted, as has been done with this PEIS.

As the document makes clear, the Uranium Leasing Program would be carried out in a fashion that maintains the health and sustainability of the surrounding natural areas. Could any other country make the same statement with as much earned confidence?

The economic benefits of the program are as great as the environmental impacts are small.

The recovery of this uranium will provide much needed job growth in a part of the country that is still reeling from the downturn in our economy. Those jobs will spur even more economic activity, and trigger regional prosperity.

L12-1

L12-1

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

L12-2

L12-2

See response to L12-1.

L12-3

L12-3

See response to L12-1.

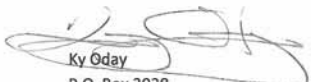
Oday, Ky, Commenter ID No. L12 (Cont.)

This potentially means newer schools, more services, repaired roads, and more of our young people staying in the area. The alternative, one which the opponents of this program seem to want, is further decline, more families moving away, and increasing hardship for those who remain.

You have a stark choice to make – selecting an alternative like No. 4 that will help protect the planet’s health while expanding economic opportunity at home, or one like the opponents want, which will drive those jobs overseas to countries with much lower environmental standards.

It should be an easy decision to move forward with Alternative 4.

Thank you for accepting my comments,


Ky Oday
P.O. Box 3028
Grand Junction,
CO 81502

L12-3
(Cont.)

L12-4

L12-4 See response to L12-1.

Oglesby, Betty, Commenter ID No. T23

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

27

1 And I do have an issue with just one of the
2 things I saw up there about the four species of fish
3 that potentially will be impacted. I believe there's
4 only four lease tracts, probably, right above the San
5 Miguel in Uravan that might have potential to impact
6 those fish.

7 But again, with the criteria we have to deal
8 with with the State just to get that mine permit,
9 surface water quality and ground water quality are big
10 issues for them. And I really don't expect that there
11 will be any problem with any of those fish that you
12 guys have listed in there that you're thinking about.

13 So again, I'm all for the alternative 4, 5
14 or 3. So thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Glen.

16 And Betty?

17 BETTY OGLESBY: Thank you. I'm Betty
18 Oglesby, and I lived in this area from '70 to '92.
19 Actually, I worked for Glen Williams back in the late
20 '70s and early '80s. So I do approve this, I support
21 it. I don't think there's a negative impact here; I
22 don't think there is a negative air quality impact.

23 I lived there, I raised my kids there, I
24 worked for the mine, I've been there. I've lived it.
25 And I do not believe there's an impact to the fish in



T23-1

T23-1

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Oglesby, Betty, Commenter ID No. T23 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

28

1 that river or bedrock either. So I know we had scenic
2 river impact studies going about a year ago; I worked
3 on the studies in the Delta area and worked with some
4 of the people in San Miguel County doing those. So I
5 do not think there is an impact. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Betty.
7 We're going to go to Wally Smith and then Marvin
8 Ballantyne and Jim Riddell.

9 WALLY SMITH: I'm Wally Smith. I live in
10 Montrose. I've lived in the west almost all my life,
11 except a couple years. I am a downwinder. And mining
12 is not like it used to be, let me tell you. It is a
13 total different picture.

14 Everybody throws up all the problems we've
15 had in the past; yes, we had to win World War II, but
16 we won it. And a lot of the west end was opened up
17 (inaudible) was after the war. And the canyon had no
18 road down through there, and it was paved and done by
19 the Department of Energy, I think, in the '40s.

20 And that was to get uranium out of there.
21 I'd just like to say that I've been in the Caribbean
22 quite a bit and in South America, and the Chinese are
23 buying up a lot of the minerals and the gas. And this
24 should scare you to death.

25 We have two mines in Ouray County. I think

T23-1
(Cont.)

Olmstead, Dennis, Commenter ID No. E104

From: Dennis Olmstead
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 6:26:37 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Dennis Olmstead

E104-1

E104-2

E104-3

E104-4

E104-5

E104-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E104-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E104-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E104-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Olmstead, Dennis, Commenter ID No. E104 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E104-5 See responses to E104-1 and E104-2.

Palmer, Shauna, Commenter ID No. T34

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

1 socioeconomic impacts. They seem to have been
2 written in a vacuum. It says refer to the land use
3 impacts. They don't reflect a geographic study and
4 examination of our region. I think that's
5 sufficient to say, but given the billion-dollar
6 impact of our economy in this region that's based
7 on recreation and a state that has one of the
8 strongest renewable energy economies in the
9 country, I think we need to be looking at this
10 very, very differently.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much
13 for your specific comments, and we are going to
14 hear from Shauna. This is Shauna Palmer coming up.

15 SHAUNA PALMER: Shauna Palmer, area
16 resident, property owner, and taxpayer. Thank you
17 for this opportunity to comment.

18 Some quick questions that I jotted down.
19 I'm not asking for answers right now, but when I
20 heard your presentation, I'm just curious to hear
21 why the County prefers Alternative 1 to Alternative
22 2. Not that I'm questioning it; I just -- it would
23 be great to hear.

24 The two lease tracts that will remain
25 inactive indefinitely, I'm curious on what basis



T34-1

T34-1

While two lease tracts are currently not leased, the PEIS evaluation included those tracts for completeness, and DOE may consider leasing them in the future if warranted.

Palmer, Shauna, Commenter ID No. T34 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

29

1 you say that. How do we know we can count on that.

2 Another question, 1 acre-foot versus 19
3 acre-foot, if I heard that right. You decided that
4 it actually would impact. That's quite a

5 significant oversight. And I have a feeling that
6 that's an example of one of the reasons that the
7 Department earns some scepticism from the public
8 that you serve, those of us that you work for.
9 Just to make a point about that.

10 The cumulative impacts are considered --
11 they are considered in this and I'm wondering,
12 really, because even if the State Health Department
13 doesn't -- and I realize there's jurisdictional
14 issues there, but that's another issue I'm
15 skeptical about.

16 Negligible cumulative impacts, that some
17 of them were considered negligible? Uranium mining
18 impacts are negligible compared to other impacts
19 like recreation? To me, that's a Twilight Zone
20 kind of thing. I'm showing my age here with that
21 older TV show. But just some of the things you
22 guys say, I just do not understand how it could
23 possibly be true.

24 But mostly I wanted to just say that I
25 would echo that the uranium/nuclear industry is

T34-1
(Cont.)

T34-2

T34-2

The threshold number where a biological assessment is required is if potential water depletion impacts could be 0.1 acre-foot or more. The evaluation of Alternative 4 (DOE's preferred alternative) indicates that the amount of water depleted from the Colorado River watershed is about 19 acre-feet for the assumed 10 years of mining operation at the peak year scenario. Because of this estimate, DOE prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) to submit to the USFWS for their consideration. The USFWS has issued a biological opinion. PEIS text has been revised to be consistent with the BA and BO (see Appendix E for the BA and the BO, and Section 4.3.6.4 for the revised text).

T34-3

T34-3

The cumulative impacts analysis in Section 4.7 of the PEIS was done consistent with CEQ guidelines and analyzed past, present and foreseeable future actions within the region of cumulative influence determined as a 50-mile radius for this PEIS.

T34-4

T34-4

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

See discussion in Section I.3.6 regarding concerns for export of uranium.

Palmer, Shauna, Commenter ID No. T34 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

30

1 like a dinosaur, and the United States is behind
2 even the major economies and countries, even of
3 Europe, in switching. We say we want to switch,
4 but we have not paid attention; we are not living
5 our words. The federal government could be leading
6 that, including the Department of Energy. You guys
7 could be heros in leading us; instead, we are being
8 dinosaurs.

9 The huge risks -- I think this sums it
10 up. I mean, there are numerous things. It
11 undermines the alleged goal of switching to
12 sustainable energy. It hurts national security
13 because, like Chris said, it can go to foreign
14 countries. It could be used against us, including
15 the barium mill permit that was given. His
16 contacts are mostly, from what I've read, with
17 other countries.

18 It also could be used against us, even if
19 it goes into just nuclear power, because our
20 nuclear power plants are not even adequately
21 protected for security reasons, either from
22 terrorism or even from natural events. They tend
23 to be, it seems like, built on earthquake faults.

24 We also used to hear that nuclear power
25 was cheap. That's only true if you do not include

T34-4
(Cont.)

T34-5

T34-5

Comment noted.

Palmer, Shauna, Commenter ID No. T34 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

31

1 adequate, cost-effective analysis of true security
2 and cleanup, which the industry knows it has not
3 done. Nuclear power is clean. That's even a bogus
4 argument.

T34-5
(Cont.)

5 But when you really look at the bottom
6 line, the huge risks, dangers, and costs of the
7 uranium/nuclear industries are well known by the
8 informed. They are so well known that the industry
9 would have collapsed -- this is what I have read
10 extensively -- would have collapsed if not for its
11 success at lobbying for taxpayer moneys, low-cost
12 government loans, if not outright investments, and
13 programs like the Superfund site and the programs
14 that take care of uranium miners after they have
15 lost their health.

T34-6

T34-6 Comment noted.

16 MR. CAMERON: And, Shauna, could you
17 wrap it up.

18 SHAUNA PALMER: Okay. So in other
19 words, taxpayer subsidies are necessary to prop up
20 this industry because the private sector does not
21 adequately invest or even insure the nuclear
22 industry and the toxic sites that are left behind,
23 and you don't have a plan to do that yet. I think
24 it's insanity, frankly, to continue.

T34-6
(Cont.)

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Shauna, for



Parish, Barbara, Commenter ID No. E71

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 11:15:54 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: Barbara Parish [mailto:barbara.parish@colorado.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 10:34 AM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Parish

E71-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E71-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E71-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E71-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

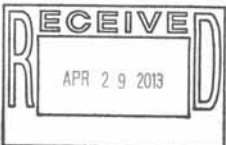
Parish, Barbara, Commenter ID No. E71 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E71-5 See responses to E71-1 and E71-2.

Parker, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. W8



810A Tabernash Lane
Ridgway, Colorado 81432
April 23, 2013

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
US Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, Colorado 80021

RE: Uranium Leases

Dear Mr. Plieness:

The possibility of the Department of Energy granting uranium leases in southwest Colorado is of great concern to me. I strongly believe that these tracts MUST be cleaned up and reclaimed for the purposes of sustainable and renewable energy. The jobs that would be created in the clean up would be extensive. Additionally the jobs that would be created in a sustainable and renewable energy effort would be significant and without the inherent health risks. There appears to be a HUGE stockpile of uranium and a weak market for same. Why would we put uranium miners at further risk together with citizens in the nearby communities? I believe that to do so is incredibly negligent. The health risks and risks to an economy which relies on tourism and second homes to thrive would be irresponsible. Therefore, I would ask (and strongly urge) you to cancel this lease program and to reevaluate the previous lease program for uranium mining.

I thank you for your careful and thoughtful consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parker

W8-1

W8-1 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

W8-2

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

W8-2

DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS.

With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

Parker, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T36

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

34

1 continues to haunt the region. It is totally
2 irresponsible to propose additional leasing of
3 public land for uranium development and mining
4 before the previously leased parcels are reclaimed.

5 Cleaning up old uranium mine sites will
6 create permanent jobs in the region which will
7 strengthen our economy and create jobs in our rural
8 communities. Once these disturbed areas are clean,
9 the Department of Energy can take advantage of the
10 recognized potential for solar energy in the leased
11 areas by developing renewable energy projects on
12 these sites.

13 Thank you for considering my comments.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Now we
15 will have Jennifer Parker.

16 JENNIFER PARKER: So many of the
17 people that have spoken before me have hit upon a
18 lot of my points, so I won't belabor them. But I
19 do have to say that my impression, and it is an
20 impression, of the uranium industry is that it's
21 dirty, dangerous, and deadly. We have so many
22 people in this area who are receiving help with
23 diseases that they have, with conditions that they
24 have and, like some of the people before me have
25 said, it seems insane to be even considering this.



T36-1

T36-1

Comment noted. DOE has carefully considered all public comments and the results of the PEIS evaluation and has identified Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative in this PEIS.

Parker, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T36 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

35

1 We have a stockpile of uranium that I
2 understand -- and I could be misinformed -- that
3 will last us 100 years. We also know that the
4 uranium in the ground is the safest possible place
5 for it to be. I would agree with my husband, which
6 doesn't happen very often, and that is that we
7 should reclaim the mining sites that we have,
8 putting people to work to do so, and then using
9 those areas, since they are already set aside, for
10 renewable energy. There is no question we have
11 plenty of sun in Colorado and plenty of wind.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jennifer.
14 We are going to go to Catherine Peterson next and
15 then to Paul Szilagyi.

16 CATHERINE PETERSON: I'm actually
17 thinking of moving closer, over to Norwood, to this
18 area, so I guess I should go to the other hearing
19 also in Naturita.

20 But it seems like in talking to you, it
21 feels like you are being held hostage, that when
22 you talk about your options, that you're like, oh,
23 well, we have to settle on something in the middle.
24 And when we talk about Option 2, it's like, okay,
25 well, if we don't do Option 1, Option 2 is going to

T36-2

T36-2

With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

T36-3

T36-3

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Parker, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. L13

Thank you for your comment, Jennifer Parker.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50008.

Comment Date: April 23, 2013 09:46:48AM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50008

First Name: Jennifer
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Parker
Organization:
Address: 810a tabernash lane
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Ridgway
State: CO
Zip: 81432
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

The possibility of the DOE granting uranium leases is of great concern to me. I strongly believe that these tracts MUST be cleaned up and reclaimed for the purposes of sustainable and renewable energy. The jobs that would be created in the clean up would be extensive. Additionally the jobs that would be created in a sustainable and renewable energy effort would be significant and without the inherent health risks. There appears to be a HUGE stockpile of uranium and a weak market for same. Why would we put uranium miners at further risk together with citizens in the nearby communities. I believe that to do so is incredibly negligent. The health risks and risks to an economy which relies on tourism and second homes to thrive would be irresponsible. Therefore, I would ask (and strongly urge) you to cancel this lease program and to reevaluate the previous lease program for uranium mining.

L13-1

L13-1 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE’s oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE’s oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L13-2

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the “Purpose and Need” discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

L13-2 With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

Parker, Randy, Commenter ID No. T35

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

32

1 those comments. We are going to go next to Randy
2 Parker and Jennifer Parker.

3 RANDY PARKER: As a year-round
4 resident of Ridgway, Colorado, I'm very concerned
5 about the Department of Energy's proposed leasing
6 of public lands for uranium exploration and mining.
7 There are better choices that will not adversely
8 affect the citizens of Western Colorado, their
9 health, their water, their air, their economy, than
10 increased uranium development.

11 The inherent boom/bust cycle of the
12 uranium industry has failed to provide any
13 long-term economic gain to our region. In fact,
14 the history of uranium mining in this region has
15 been a legacy of waste and radioactive
16 contamination that continues to burden the
17 taxpayers of this region and the state of Colorado.

18 I noted the 65-million-dollar figure that
19 was generated as revenue from these leases. That
20 pales in comparison to the \$1 billion the taxpayers
21 of the state of Colorado have paid to clean up the
22 nuclear industry.

23 The future of Western Colorado and the
24 Telluride and Ridgway region, in particular, is
25 based on agriculture, conservation, recreation, and



T35-1

T35-1 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Lease tract operations are currently covered by reclamation bonds, calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

T35-2

T35-2 The cumulative impacts analysis for a 50-mile buffer area is adequate as it encompasses the largest region of influence (ROI) for any of the resource areas evaluated in the PEIS (see Chapter 3 for ROI descriptions for each resource area evaluated in the PEIS). Past, present, and foreseeable future projects (regardless of ownership) within the 50 mile buffer area are addressed in the cumulative impacts analysis in Section 4.7 of the PEIS.

The range of reasonable alternatives evaluated in the PEIS includes reclamation. Reclamation standards for uranium mines at the ULP lease tracts are consistent with DOE's lease agreements, BLM's, and state (CDRMS) requirements.

Parker, Randy, Commenter ID No. T35 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 tourism, all of which will be threatened by
2 increased uranium exploration and development.
3 The PEIS, by limiting its scope to a
4 50-mile buffer region surrounding the lease tracts,
5 fails to adequately analyze the cumulative effect
6 of increased uranium mining on this region. The
7 potential impacts of radioactive releases in
8 environmental contamination were not thoroughly
9 studied and were not considered in conjunction with
10 the impacts from mining on non-leased public land
11 in the region.

12 The PEIS also failed to adequately
13 consider the cumulative effects of increased
14 uranium mining on the region's roads, bridges, and
15 rivers. Given the history of incomplete and
16 inconsistent uranium mining cleanup in this region
17 and in the industry as a whole, I urge the
18 Department of Energy to adopt a transparent process
19 that leads to a uniform, modern standard of
20 reclamation that returns all uranium mining areas
21 to their original condition.

22 Before any more public land is offered to
23 be leased for uranium mining, the Department of
24 Energy should put people to work reclaiming old
25 sites and cleaning up the past uranium legacy that

T35-2
(Cont.)

T35-3

T35-3

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Parker, Randy, Commenter ID No. T35 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

34

1 continues to haunt the region. It is totally
2 irresponsible to propose additional leasing of
3 public land for uranium development and mining
4 before the previously leased parcels are reclaimed.

5 Cleaning up old uranium mine sites will
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7 strengthen our economy and create jobs in our rural
8 communities. Once these disturbed areas are clean,
9 the Department of Energy can take advantage of the
10 recognized potential for solar energy in the leased
11 areas by developing renewable energy projects on
12 these sites.

13 Thank you for considering my comments.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Now we
15 will have Jennifer Parker.

16 JENNIFER PARKER: So many of the
17 people that have spoken before me have hit upon a
18 lot of my points, so I won't belabor them. But I
19 do have to say that my impression, and it is an
20 impression, of the uranium industry is that it's
21 dirty, dangerous, and deadly. We have so many
22 people in this area who are receiving help with
23 diseases that they have, with conditions that they
24 have and, like some of the people before me have
25 said, it seems insane to be even considering this.

T35-3
(Cont.)

Parker, Tehri, Commenter ID No. E25

From: Tehri Parker
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 10:26:33 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Tehri Parker

E25-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E25-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E25-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E25-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Parker, Tehri, Commenter ID No. E25 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E25-5 See responses to E25-1 and E25-2.

Peterson, Catherine, Commenter ID No. T37

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

35

1 We have a stockpile of uranium that I
2 understand -- and I could be misinformed -- that
3 will last us 100 years. We also know that the
4 uranium in the ground is the safest possible place
5 for it to be. I would agree with my husband, which
6 doesn't happen very often, and that is that we
7 should reclaim the mining sites that we have,
8 putting people to work to do so, and then using
9 those areas, since they are already set aside, for
10 renewable energy. There is no question we have
11 plenty of sun in Colorado and plenty of wind.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jennifer.
14 We are going to go to Catherine Peterson next and
15 then to Paul Szilagyi.

16 CATHERINE PETERSON: I'm actually
17 thinking of moving closer, over to Norwood, to this
18 area, so I guess I should go to the other hearing
19 also in Naturita.

20 But it seems like in talking to you, it
21 feels like you are being held hostage, that when
22 you talk about your options, that you're like, oh,
23 well, we have to settle on something in the middle.
24 And when we talk about Option 2, it's like, okay,
25 well, if we don't do Option 1, Option 2 is going to



T37-1

T37-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Peterson, Catherine, Commenter ID No. T37 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 give us back to the BLM and who knows what they
2 will do. And that has an implicit threat to it,
3 like we can't choose that one.

4 So when we have 3 or 4, which, you know,
5 I don't know why we have to bargain when there are
6 like all these -- everything that everybody already
7 said. It's like we -- I mean, I don't know. Do we
8 have to bargain and do we have to support this
9 industry?

10 When we did the -- the environmental
11 impact statement talks about endangered species
12 animals, but it really doesn't talk about our
13 microclimate. And we -- when we talk about
14 biodiversity, we are not really going to know about
15 a bee or a butterfly or, you know, something that's
16 really being affected. So I don't think an
17 Endangered Species Act is really enough to say
18 that, you know, we looked at the impacts to the
19 animals.

20 So we can't have those trucks. In those
21 two alternatives, whether it's 80 trucks or 90
22 trucks or 60 trucks, you know, obviously our roads
23 can't do that. We can't have an accident on any
24 Colorado roads. I mean, that would be tragic. I
25 mean, we are dealing with environmental accidents

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T37-1
(Cont.)

T37-2

T37-2

The PEIS addresses all aspects of ecological resources; in addition to threatened and endangered species, potential impacts to vegetation, wildlife, and aquatic biota are also addressed. See Sections 4.1.6, 4.2.6, 4.3.6, 4.4.6, and 4.5.6.

T37-3

T37-3

For Alternatives 3, 4, and 5, the transport of uranium ore would result in some impacts as provided in the PEIS. As discussed in Sections 4.3.10.2.1, 4.4.10.1.1, and 4.5.10.1.1, the potential truck traffic on Colorado's highways could increase by less than 2% to about 74% of current conditions depending on location and implementation of alternatives as analyzed for a peak year. However, environmental impacts from any accidental release of uranium ore during transportation are anticipated to be minimal and short-term as described in Section 4.3.10.4 because of the low-grade nature of the ore, the immobile nature of the hazardous constituents, and prompt cleanup.

Peterson, Catherine, Commenter ID No. T37 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

37

1 everywhere. And we have, you know, Colorado to
2 think about and these -- it's an archaic industry.
3 So we don't want 3 or 4 because it doesn't really
4 deal with all the impacts of uranium mining, and it
5 seems like we shouldn't have to deal that way.

6 No. 5, fast and dirty. That's also a
7 real threat, you know, that we don't -- you know,
8 boy, they are going to come in there and just do
9 whatever, so...

10 The social impacts, I agree. That's the
11 first thing I turn to. Okay. What do they talk
12 about the social impacts of mining. We know that
13 it's not art and culture and teachers and doctors.
14 It's a boom/bust economy. It's not going to bring
15 what we've -- it's not going to enhance our economy
16 here. So the social impacts really aren't covered
17 in that statement. I mean, it's like vague and
18 nonspecific and doesn't really talk about anything.

19 I agree mining uranium could affect our
20 national security. We really need to be thinking
21 about climate change and moving into the future. I
22 agree with everybody else that said that. I find
23 it hard that any -- you know, if Indian tribes have
24 any input, I hope for sure that they were saying,
25 listen, we've suffered enough and we're

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T37-3
(Cont.)

T37-4

T37-5

T37-6

T37-4 See response to T37-1.

T37-5 Section 3.8 of the PEIS discusses the current and historic economic environment in the ROI. An overview of periods of boom and bust economic conditions in the ROI has been added.

Socioeconomic impacts of each of the alternatives are evaluated in terms of employment and income. Direct impacts include wages and salaries as well as the purchase of goods and services required for uranium mining and reclamation. Indirect and induced impacts include the purchase of goods and services that would subsequently circulate through the economy, creating additional employment and income to ROI residents.

T37-6 Climate change was evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1) in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) generated by the ULP proposed action for the five alternatives, respectively. The results indicate that the ULP proposed action contributes a very small percentage to both Colorado, and U.S. GHG generated (up to 0.03% and 0.0005%, respectively). U.S. GHG emissions account for about one-fifth of global GHG emissions, and GHG emissions from ULP proposed action are up to about 0.0001%. The amount of GHG generated is generally used as a measure of the potential impacts on climate change. In contrast, ULP operations (followed by power generations at nuclear power plants) would displace considerable amounts of criteria and toxic air pollutants, and GHG emissions that would otherwise be released from fossil power plants. Accordingly, ULP operations would contribute to more positive impacts than adverse impacts on climate change. The text in the PEIS has been revised (see the same sections mentioned previously) to explain further how potential impacts from climate change were analyzed for the PEIS and what the results mean.

Peterson, Catherine, Commenter ID No. T37 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 recommending that you don't go any further with
2 uranium mines.

T37-6
(Cont.)

3 MR. CAMERON: And, Catherine, could
4 you sum up for us.

5 CATHERINE PETERSON: And that was my
6 last thing, the Indian tribes.

T37-6
(Cont.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Perfect.

8 CATHERINE PETERSON: Anyway, thank
9 you very, very much for coming here, and obviously
10 we need -- for our health and economic and
11 everything, we need Option 1. We need to like
12 squelch this whole thing.

T37-6
(Cont.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Catherine.
14 Now to Paul Szilagyi, and I hope that I'm
15 pronouncing that sort of correctly, and then we
16 have Mike Rozycki.

17 PAUL SZILAGYI: It's Szilagyi. It's
18 Hungarian. And I don't expect any claps when I'm
19 done, but I do thank you for welcome miners to your
20 territory. It's very nice that you put that up.

21 I'm here for three hats today. I'm here
22 for myself, and most of my comments will be about
23 myself. I will also talk as an investor in a
24 mining company, a mining company that has no
25 interest in any of the leases that are under

Pfaff, Kristin, Commenter ID No. T2

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

26

1 management of the site.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you

4 very much.

5 Our next commenter is Kristin Pfaff. ←

6 KRISTIN PFAFF: Hi, I'm Kristin Pfaff, I'm a

7 nursing student at Colorado Mesa; I'm here with my

8 fellow students.

9 One of my fellow students, Choi, and I just

10 completed a report on the mine and its potential

11 impacts, and I wanted to echo what Beverly said and

12 just encourage a thorough investigation of all the

13 lingering potential human health threats that could

14 remain long after the mine is gone.

15 And I guess personally, I would bring up

16 that in my observations over the past 10 years, I've

17 noticed an increase in the intensity of the spring

18 dust storms that we have, and I'm hoping the

19 Environmental Impact Statement will focus some

20 research on the impacts of what is being carried in

21 the surrounding valleys during those storms. Thank

22 you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Kristin. →

24 And Thomas Acker?

25 THOMAS ACKER: I am interested in the aspect

T2-1

T2-1

The potential human health impacts from uranium mining are evaluated thoroughly in the PEIS addressing exploration, mine development and operation, and reclamation aspects of the proposed action and consideration of all possible exposure scenarios. See Section 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5; and 4.7 for potential cumulative human health impacts.

Phillips, Benita, Commenter ID No. E121

From: Benita Phillips
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2013 11:46:38 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

As the DOE is keenly aware, due to the Rocky Flats "clean-up", radioactive materials are a bane to the future. There is no scenario that logically supports the continued use of radioactive material as we have in the past. Despite years of studies showing the morbid and lethal effects after both short and long term exposure depending on the source and its strength, reinitializing an industry such as this is pure folly. As an RN of more than 35 years, working with Uranium workers, growing up downwind from Hanford and watching victim after victim slowly decay and waste away, I ask you to remember, these elements were buried deep into the Earth for a reason. As defined by the "Precautionary Principle" this industry is a pariah and far to dangerous at every level of development to continue ANY serious consideration.

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor"^{xxx} environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,
Benita Phillips RN, BSN

E121-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E121-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E121-3 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E121-4 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

Phillips, Benita, Commenter ID No. E121 (Cont.)

President of Western Colorado Congress of Mesa County
Benita Phillips

E121-5 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the in-migration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E121-6 See responses to E121-1 and E121-2.

Phillips, Benita, Commenter ID No. T12

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

43

1 Claudette.

2 Benita Phillips? ←

3 BENITA PHILLIPS: Hi, my name is Benita

4 Phillips. I'm also an RN, and I'm President of

5 Western Colorado Congress in Mesa County.

6 Not to be redundant, I think a lot of what

7 has been said has been said very well. I'm in favor

8 of alternative 6, which is the one that Janet brought

9 up; a whole new PEIS needs to be done. And I just --

10 it was the first time I really looked at the table

11 that talks about definition of impact levels, and

12 under Human Health, it says not applicable, not

13 applicable, not applicable, not applicable at every

14 level.

15 And then it says human health potential

16 impacts are discussed relative to regulatory limits.

17 And Claudette just got through saying the regulatory

18 limits can be changed.

19 So what we need to look at in terms of human

20 health here, long-term human health, we're not talking

21 just this generation, we're talking multigenerational

22 human health, because we know these things linger for

23 a few thousand years.

24 And I just happened to, before I left home,

25 pull out a study out of NIOSH that was talking about a

T12-1

T12-1

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

T12-2

T12-2

The term "not applicable" was used and intended to mean that human health impacts are more appropriately compared to regulatory requirements and the terms used in this table "negligible," "minor," "moderate," and "major" do not apply in that sense. This table has been revised for the human health presentation to denote the comparison of the potential impact estimates to regulatory requirements, as regulatory requirements exist.

Phillips, Benita, Commenter ID No. T12 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 study that was done that was finished back in around
2 mid 1975, I think it was. And they were talking about
3 lung cancers.

4 And this is just in wide uranium miners:
5 They found that lung cancers were -- it was expected
6 at 64 deaths, they found 371; that means six times
7 more lung cancers than what was expected.
8 Pneumoconiosis, expected two deaths but found 41.
9 That's 21 times the deaths that were expected.

10 Tuberculosis, three and a half times the
11 number of deaths; emphysema, 22 times the number of
12 deaths.

13 And that's just the beginning of this study.
14 And this was published by the U.S. Government in the
15 NIOSH.

16 So basically what I see here is a lack of
17 follow-through on process. In nursing, when you go in
18 and you evaluate a patient; they come in and they're
19 sick, you evaluate them, you make a care plan, you
20 follow up the care plan, you evaluate your care plan
21 and you discharge a patient and you do follow-up.

22 This study does not have any follow-up.
23 There's nothing that's been done in the uranium
24 business that supports follow-up.

25 I would suggest that Energy Fuels is nothing

T12-2
(Cont.)

T12-3

T12-3 Comment noted.

Phillips, Benita, Commenter ID No. T12 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 but a boondoggle, that uranium business is nothing but
2 the taxpayer boondoggle, because all of these
3 companies are getting subsidized either by the
4 Canadian government or our government. And I, as a
5 taxpayer, am tired of paying for these companies to
6 exist. They need to be standalones, support
7 themselves.

8 And I think Eric made a mistake when he said
9 it should be a \$2 million bond. I think he meant to
10 say \$2 billion bond.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Benita.

12 And Mark Collins?

13 MARK COLLINS: I have six questions for
14 everybody to consider and not to be answered now.

15 Does radioactive material cause DNA in
16 people to mutate? Can radioactive material become a
17 lot more dangerous than radioactive from carbon
18 monoxide gas, similar to volcanic elements originally?

19 If there is a natural disaster at a large
20 nuclear waste dump, such as a volcanic eruption, could
21 all life on the planet be gone?

22 If one tiny radioactive particle becomes
23 attached to a person or is inside of a person, will
24 that particle remain radioactive and cause cancer?

25 Why does a nuclear plant scan employees for

T12-3
(Cont.)



Pierce, Carol, Commenter ID No. W3

Thank you for your comment, Carol Pierce.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50003.

Comment Date: April 5, 2013 08:21:18AM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50003

First Name: Carol
Middle Initial: R
Last Name: Pierce
Organization:
Address: [Withheld by requestor]
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: [Withheld by requestor]
State: [Withheld by requestor]
Zip: [Withheld by requestor]
Country: [Withheld by requestor]
Privacy Preference: Withhold address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Please do not move forward on leasing land for Uranium mining until the mess is cleaned up that already exists from past mining. I continue to be confused by how we can approve uranium mining anywhere at all until the answer to how and where to store the waste is resolved in a way that won't effect the environment or citizens' health in the present or future. It's unacceptable to pretend that there is an answer to that problem. We could be moving towards using clean renewable energy (from production to end use), instead of continuing in the vein of destroy and destroy some more. I knew 2 brothers working in the Uranium mines in Uravan, they both got a similar cancer an died from it. Insanity at its best; all this choosing of dirty toxic energy.

W3-1

W3-1

Comment noted.

Prendergast, Jim, Commenter ID No. E7

From: Jim Prendergast
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:19:38 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Jim Prendergast

E7-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E7-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E7-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E7-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Prendergast, Jim, Commenter ID No. E7 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E7-5 See responses to E7-1 and E7-2.

Quade, Wayne, Commenter ID No. T28

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 When I was on the board with the environmentalists, I
2 believed it was a really good idea. I see
3 environmental (inaudible) the political sector, and
4 has nothing to do with the sweet little animal we've
5 got to protect or whatever it is they come up with.
6 It's moot. It's now political.

7 We went from peace movement and antiwar
8 movement to antiadministration movement to the
9 antigovernment movement to the antimilitary movement
10 to the antiAmerican movement. That's where we are,
11 and the environmental movement is part of it. Trust
12 me, I was one of them. Thank you.

13 Wayne?

14 WAYNE QUADE: Thank you. Well, good evening
15 everybody. I'm a resident of Montrose, and I've
16 worked with environmentalists in my past job. Two
17 things that I'd just like to bring out and discuss, or
18 have discussed, basically involve the costs and
19 remediation.

20 As far as the cost, I'm talking about the
21 fact that these leases are far too cheap. They do not
22 consider the environmental cost to both the community
23 and the environment. And we're not recouping what we
24 could recoup through the -- really the fire sale
25 prices that they're offering these leases.



T28-1

T28-1

Lease tract operations are currently covered by reclamation bonds, calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

Quade, Wayne, Commenter ID No. T28 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 And then the other thing is remediation.
2 And as far as remediation goes, we need to worry about
3 more than just filling in the hole and bringing in the
4 topsoil, we need to adequately have -- utilize
5 standards of reclamation, including the improper soil
6 profiles, and of course we need to independently
7 monitor to make sure that it is monitored to come back
8 to its native state.

9 And as far as the monitoring goes, we need
10 to have benchmarks of acceptability. In other words,
11 they're not released from the -- from their -- they're
12 not released from the lease requirements until they
13 meet these benchmarks. They're independently verified
14 as to having the native vegetation come back into its
15 natural state.

16 So those are two things that I think we need
17 to -- that I'd like to identify.

18 MR. CAMERON: All right. Thank you, Wayne.
19 Is there anybody else who wants to speak to the
20 Department and to the community? Anybody want to make
21 any comments?

22 Yes, sir. Want to come up? And just please
23 introduce yourself.

24 DAVID WHITE: Okay. I'm David White, I'm a
25 Montrose County Commissioner. And we've already

T28-2

T28-2 The effectiveness of reclamation is based on meeting DOE requirements that are consistent with those established by BLM and CDRMS.

T28-3

T28-3 The re-vegetation efforts conducted on the ULP lease tracts have to meet requirements in accordance with CDRMS and lease agreements.



Radlev, Rad, Commenter ID No. E46

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 1:19:08 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Rad Radley [mailto:radradley@montroseco.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:35 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Millions of dollars have already been spent cleaning up from the "boom" of the 50's & 60's. Please do not trash out our state again! We need CLEAN energy!
I live in Montrose County, just over the hill from the proposed mill! I do not want this in our state much less just over the hill! There is little need for uranium production in this country, we have plenty!

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

E46-1 Reclamation of mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E46-2 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E46-3 See response to E46-1.)

E46-4 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E46-5 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur

Radley, Rad, Commenter ID No. E46 (Cont.)

Sincerely,
Rad Radley

given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

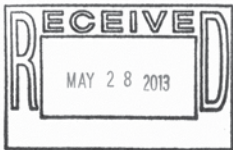
The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E46-6 See responses to E46-1 and E46-2.



DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D)
U.S. Department of Energy



WRITTEN COMMENT FORM
Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___
Name: Susan Rahmann
Title: Business Owner / Citizen
Organization: Colorado 3B, LLC
Address: PO Box 3737
City: Telluride State: CO Zip Code: 81435
Phone: 970 728 3042 E-Mail Address: srahmann@mac.com

Comment:
The mines that are being reclaimed to mine uranium or even clean-up are dangerous and have no purpose other than remaining as they are or may be better as landfills for surrounding areas garbage.

L35-1

L35-1

Comment noted.

Please use other side if more space is needed.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record.
- Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to:
Mr. Ray Plieness
DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to:
ulpeis@anl.gov

Ramev, James, Commenter ID No. E109

From: James Ramev
To: mail_lulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 12:35:34 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

James Ramev

E109-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E109-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E109-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E109-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Ramey, James, Commenter ID No. E109 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E109-5 See responses to E109-1 and E109-2.

Reams, John, Commenter ID No. T54

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

18

1 has done all the drilling on the Uravan Mineral
2 Belt, not just what they have got reserved. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for your
5 comment. We are going to go to John Reams.

6 JOHN REAMS: My name is John Reams.
7 I live in Naturita. And on behalf of the Western
8 Small Miners Association, which I'm the president
9 of, we really support Alternative 4. That makes
10 the most sense to us. So we will probably put a
11 written comment together with the other stuff later
12 for you.

13 As an owner of a construction company,
14 Reams Construction Company, we have worked on the
15 reclamation of a lot of these original leases where
16 they were shut down and reclaimed, and they were
17 done very well. So we've worked for the DOE on
18 that through different contractors to do the
19 reclamation. The reclamation was done well, so I
20 don't have any problem with the way these things
21 will get reclaimed in the end.

22 And then also with the other hat on, as
23 the owner of Tomcat Mining Corporation, we actually
24 worked for Cotter Corporation in contract mining.
25 And we know how Cotter did with the mines they had



T54-1

T54-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

T54-2

T54-2

See response to T54-1.

T54-3

T54-3

See response to T54-1.

Reams, John, Commenter ID No. T54 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

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1 and how well they were taken care of.

2 So with that, I support Alternative 4
3 with all these others. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John.
5 We're going to go to Glen Miller next and then Troy
6 Wallace.

7 GLEN WILLIAMS: My name is Glen
8 Williams with Cotter Corporation out of Nucla. I'm
9 a big proponent of responsible natural resource
10 development. And I believe that all these lease
11 tracts that the DOE has, we should try to develop
12 them and produce the ores we can responsibly
13 produce from them as much as we can.

14 The program has been in place for a long
15 time. I believe it's effective. I believe it's
16 employed quite a few people, paid a lot of
17 royalties to DOE, and I just feel that with the way
18 the mine permitting is going these days, bonds are
19 substantial and they cover everything I have seen
20 that needs to be covered with any of the
21 reclamation activities that are required on these
22 mines these days. And I feel that it's a good way
23 to go. It will help the area.

24 The one alternative that I would not
25 recommend is the Alternative 1. It seems to me

T54-3
(Cont.)



Rechel, Eric, Commenter ID No. T10

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dave.

2 Next we're going go to Eric Rechel. ←

3 ERIC RECHEL: Thank you all for coming out

4 this evening. This is just great.

5 One of the first slides that was presented

6 up here -- I guess "slides" is an old term -- was that

7 this process is for domestic use. I would like to

8 know what kind of enforcement authority the DOE has to

9 make sure that Energy Fuels doesn't sell to the

10 highest bidder in China or India. And if it finds its

11 way to China or India, what kind of (inaudible) does

12 it take on Energy Fuels? Because I'm sure China will

13 pay a lot more for uranium than the U.S.

14 will.

15 So what kind of enforcement authority do we

16 have to make sure this is domestic use?

17 I'm in favor of alternative 2, which is to

18 give the land back to the BLM. They've had a lot of

19 experience in reclamation and multiple use, and so I

20 favor alternative 2.

21 I'm also in favor of a new PEIS, as stated

22 by Janet to look over some of the critical aspects

23 that I think were ignored.

24

25 One of the aspects, I think, that is ignored

T10-1

T10-2

T10-3

- T10-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.
- Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.
- In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program. See also discussion in Section I.3.6 in this appendix.
- T10-2 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.
- T10-3 ULP lease tract operations are currently covered by reclamation bonds, calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

Rechel, Eric, Commenter ID No. T10 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

40

1 was that we look at this list of aspects that was put
2 on the board. And one was the socioeconomic aspect.
3 I demand that in the alternative there's like a \$2
4 million bond of Energy Fuels to do what? To help the
5 economy and communities survive when they go bust.
6 Because they will go bust. And they'll be stuck out
7 there with all this stuff out there and all the
8 economic travesty when they go bust.

T10-3
(Cont.)

9 Why? It happens all the time. We need a \$2
10 million bond to help this be able to survive and it
11 doesn't go bust.

12 Next I wish the whole community would have a
13 bigger vision of nuclear power, like Germany and
14 Japan, where we don't need nuclear power to survive.
15 We have other alternatives to do it.

T10-4

T10-4 Comment noted.

16 We should do the same; we just need a bigger
17 vision.

18 And last I would say that Union of Concerned
19 Scientists in this country has stated there is no safe
20 level of radiation. Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eric, for those
22 comments.



23 And our next commenter is Claudette,
24 Claudette Konola.

25 CLAUDETTE KONOLA: I will probably end up

Redmond, Marv, Commenter ID No. E53

From: Mary Redmond
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Re: Draft ULP PEIS Comments
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 5:32:47 PM

On Fri, May 31, 2013 at 3:57 PM, Mary Redmond <> wrote:

Mining uranium is INSANE! It is radioactive for EVER. (4 billion years) Exposure to it causes cancer, birth defects and disease. It is a deadly, toxic substance and its only purpose is to destroy life. The people who want a uranium mill are only thinking of jobs for a few people for a few decades. The owners of the mill have only one interest: MONEY. WAKE UP!!! YOUR DECISION HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE LIFE OF PLANET EARTH ! There will be spills and other accidents because humans are imperfect.
The costs are infinitely greater than any monetary benefit to a few people.

Mary Redmond
Montrose, CO

E53-1

E53-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Rensenbrink, Willy, Commenter ID No. E92

From: [Willy Rensenbrink](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 5:54:31 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Willy Rensenbrink

E92-1

E92-2

E92-3

E92-4

E92-5

E92-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E92-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E92-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E92-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Rensenbrink, Willy, Commenter ID No. E92 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E92-5 See responses to E92-1 and E92-2.

Rice King, Karen, Commenter ID No. E42

From: [Karen Rice King](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Please do not
Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:43:01 AM

Mine for uranium, especially on public lands. I am a geobiologist and see how the mining has desiccated our lands. Even if the industry could come up with a non-invasive way to extract minerals, it is still very dangerous and we are not measuring the damages to our environment and atmosphere in an educated way for long term effects on the public. Karen
*Karen Rice King, BA
Certified Healing Arts Practitioner, Master Dowser and Ordained Minister*

E42-1

E42-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Riddell, Jim, Commenter ID No. T26

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 what's there to a healthy standard. And that would
2 provide lots of jobs. And they can start right now;
3 you don't have to wait for the price of uranium to go
4 from \$45 a pound to 75 or more, which I don't think is
5 going to happen. Thank you very much.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Marvin. And this
7 is Jim Riddell. Then we're going to go to Dave
8 Crawford.

9 Jim?

10 JIM RIDDELL: Thanks. I'm Jim Riddell, and
11 I'm a member of the Uncompahgre Valley Association,
12 which is part of the Western Colorado Congress. But
13 as Marvin said, I'm not speaking on behalf of the
14 organization, just as an individual.

15 Most of you probably have been into this
16 area we're describing here. And if you drive through
17 that area, you come across a really remarkable feature
18 of engineering that I suspect most of you have seen.
19 If you haven't, I encourage you to see it.

20 It's a thing that was built about a hundred
21 years ago called the hanging flume. And how many of
22 you have ever rafted or floated under the hanging
23 flume? Okay, several other people. I appreciate
24 that.

25 It's really a spectacular feature there.



T26-1

T26-1

Comment noted.

Riddell, Jim, Commenter ID No. T26 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 And it was a part of a mining project almost a hundred
2 years ago that turned out not to find what they were
3 looking for and not turn out to be economically
4 viable, and turned out not to get cleaned up in the
5 sense that there's still about six miles of cliff with
6 posts sticking out from the side of the wall.

7 Now, in the case of gold mining that they
8 were hoping to do there, it might be a better thing
9 that they never found it, for our sake, because it
10 probably would still have clean-up issues left today
11 whether it be water leeching into the rivers or things
12 like that. And instead we're just left with something
13 rather amazing and wonderful to look at and speculate
14 about.

15 I don't really want to think that my
16 daughter a hundred years from now is going to be
17 looking back at what was being done tonight and think,
18 Oh, that wasn't such a good thing that we ended up
19 leaving this legacy behind.

20 I know that we say that the industry has
21 changed a lot and there isn't contamination and nearly
22 the problems that there used to be, but I think that
23 we need to watch that really, really carefully.

24 There have been an awful lot of industries -
25 - I was just seeing a show about the deep water

T26-1
(Cont.)

Riddell, Jim, Commenter ID No. T26 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 horizon explosion, last night even, of an industry
2 that said how safe it was, what wonderful procedures
3 they have nowadays. There still are plenty of risks.

4 And meanwhile, there still is an awful lot
5 left over from before that needs to be cleaned up.

6 Now, I'm not proposing that we take down the
7 remnants of the hanging flume, we'll leave those for
8 the historical interest. But there's a lot of mining
9 activity, particularly from the uranium mining that
10 still persists in that area. And I'd like to see that
11 stuff be fully cleaned up before we get start digging
12 new ore out of the ground.

13 In that light, one of the things we
14 certainly need to look at is making sure that there is
15 a definable standard for what constitutes "cleaned
16 up." I've been informed there is currently no
17 standard that we can reliably say, Oh, there won't be
18 any impact after these things are reclaimed because we
19 don't even know what the standard will be for what
20 reclamation will be.

21 As Marv said, this is a boom-and-bust
22 industry, and as most mining tends to be, there was an
23 unusual spike in the price of uranium about four or
24 five years ago that suddenly made a lot of these
25 things that otherwise wouldn't have been worth doing

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T26-2

T26-2

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

T26-3

T26-3

Reclamation standards for uranium mines at the ULP lease tracts are consistent with DOE's lease agreements, BLM's, and state (CDRMS) requirements.

T26-4

T26-4

DOE considered the results of the evaluation presented in the PEIS in addition to public comments received in its identification of DOE's preferred alternative for the PEIS. Alternative 4 which provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period is DOE's preferred alternative identified in this PEIS. Under DOE's preferred alternative, uranium mining would occur within the time period of the lease agreements based on approved mine plans.

Riddell, Jim, Commenter ID No. T26 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 seem financially viable.

2 I'd like to see that the leasing, if it
3 happens, is not just open ended but is tied in so that
4 it has to wait for the market price to come up before
5 activity can really commence on new mining.

6 The Environmental Impact Statement, one of
7 the deficiencies that we see in that statement is the
8 level to which the information was gathered at long
9 distance. We need to have really good efforts that
10 we've seen that people have looked at it, gotten on
11 the ground, and seen the conditions that are reported
12 are actually what's there.

13 Maybe they are, probably they are, but we
14 really want to see more evidence of that.

15 Along the lines of whether the market price
16 is high enough to sustain mining operations, part of
17 that would be dependent on whether or not there are
18 mills available to take the ore. If the ore is not
19 going to go to the mills that are being proposed, then
20 we shouldn't be doing leasing. So I'd like to see
21 that that be tied together in the leasing permitting,
22 if there is to be lease permitting.

23 And finally, I think it's just been briefly
24 mentioned, but I think there are plenty of
25 opportunities in addition to jobs coming from

T26-4
(Cont.)

T26-5

T26-5

Site-specific information available on the lease tracts has been incorporated into the evaluation in the PEIS. The information is summarized in Section 1.3. This information includes that incorporated in the Environmental Protection Plan (EPPs) prepared for some of the lease tracts (i.e., EPPs prepared by Cotter Corporation for their ULP lease tracts).

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Riddell, Jim, Commenter ID No. T26 (Cont.)

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In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 recreation and the potential with cleaning the
2 environment, there also is a potential for jobs coming
3 from clean energy development, which would nicely
4 coexist with the conditions of the legacy of the
5 previous mining operations. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for those remarks.
7 Okay. Dave? Dave Crawford?

8 DAVE CRAWFORD: My name is Dave Crawford;
9 I'm a resident of Montrose. I come to these meetings
10 frequently; I hear people coming up with some
11 interesting ideas. No one mines uranium because of
12 the pleasure of going underground and extracting
13 minerals. They go there because there's an economic
14 viability. That's the only conceivable reason why
15 anybody would go underground.

16 And the processes that are taking place are
17 extraordinary. People who are mining right now are
18 trying to stay ahead of it, because they know there
19 are new regulations heading their way.

20 The mine up here that mines coal has got two
21 shelves, six feet long; two shelves with six feet
22 each. Coal. Imagine what uranium has got. Okay.
23 Yeah.

24 I just can't imagine why we're still
25 speaking as though we're back in the '60s or the '70s.

T26-5
(Cont.)

Ries, Erin, Commenter ID No. L7



DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D)
U.S. Department of Energy

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. X Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___
Name: Erin Ries
Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: PO Box 2525
City: Telluride State: CO Zip Code: 81435
Phone: 970 708 1059 E-Mail Address: erin@dictionarydesigns.com

Comment:

The peis does not adequately address the potential impact and risk to the water supply in the san miguel county. It does not appear that any oversight will be in place to ensure all is done properly. The affects (negatively) to recreation / tourism due to increased traffic have not been properly addressed —
Please use other side if more space is needed.

L7-1

L7-1 Water depletion and water quality potential impacts are analyzed in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.4, 4.2.4, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, and 4.5.4). The implementation of DOE's preferred alternative at the ULP lease tracts will be under DOE's oversight in conjunction with the other Federal, state, and local agencies.

L7-2

L7-2 Sections 4.1.8.1, 4.2.8, 4.3.8.1, 4.4.8.1, and 4.5.8.1 of the PEIS examine how a reduction in the recreation economy in the ROI could impact the local economy. Text has been added to the recreation impacts sections to identify a variety of reasons that could impact recreation spending, including increased traffic. In addition, text has been added to reflect non-economic impacts to recreation in the ROI.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record.
- Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to:
Mr. Ray Plieness
DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to:
ulpeis@anl.gov

Ries, Erin, Commenter ID No. L7 (Cont.)

this affects the economy of the region.
We must consider alternatives
for energy that do not contribute to
climate change.

I am requesting Alternative #1 and
Permanent withdrawal of parcels on or near the Ddot.
Thank you.

Erin

L7-2
(Cont.)

L7-3

L7-4

L7-3

DOE identified the range of reasonable alternatives evaluated in the PEIS based on the purpose and need described in Section 1.4. The analysis of potential impacts to air quality includes analyses of climate change.

L7-4

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Roberts, Gary, Commenter ID No. E73

From: Barbara Parish
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 9:53:10 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

Before the DOE considers further uranium leasing on public and federal lands, I think a priority would be to clean up and restore some of the mess that earlier miners have created. Mining is important for the future of our country; but, it must be done in a way that does not endanger our citizens.

Things have changed from my early days in Cripple Creek where my family worked the mines. We can no longer just dump our tailings and spoils in the creeks and valleys. And as always, mining is a boom - bust industry. We need stable and long term jobs.

Sincerely,

Gary Roberts

Barbara Parish

E73-1

E73-1

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

See discussion in Section I.3.2 regarding concerns for a boom and bust industry from uranium mining.

Robinson, Rita, Commenter ID No. E21

From: Rita Robinson
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:18:11 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Rita Robinson

E21-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E21-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E21-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E21-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Robinson, Rita, Commenter ID No. E21 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E21-5 See responses to E21-1 and E21-2.

Rogers, Don, Commenter ID No. E22

From: Don Rogers
To: mail_lulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:33:04 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

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Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Don Rogers

E22-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E22-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E22-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E22-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Rogers, Don, Commenter ID No. E22 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E22-5 See responses to E22-1 and E22-2.

Rogers, Don, Commenter ID No. E75

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:31:50 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Don Rogers [mailto:don.rogers@doe.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 12:05 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Don Rogers

E75-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E75-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E75-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E75-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Rogers, Don, Commenter ID No. E75 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E75-5 See responses to E75-1 and E75-2.

Rogers, Missy, Commenter ID No. E126

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 9:47:25 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Missy Rogers [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2013 3:32 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Missy Rogers

E126-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E126-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

E126-1

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E126-2

E126-3

E126-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E126-4

E126-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

E126-5

Large scale-development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Rogers, Missy, Commenter ID No. E126 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E126-5 See responses to E126-1 and E126-2.

Rozycki, Mike, Commenter ID No. T39

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 with it. They're charged with it because we get 20
2 percent of our power, electrical power, from
3 nuclear. We need uranium. We import over 90
4 percent of what we use. That's not something
5 that's a good position for our country. If we want
6 to move away from it, that's fine. But remember
7 that you are going to increase your carbon
8 footprint, so think about it and decide what you
9 really want to do.

10 MR. CAMERON: If you could finish up
11 for us, Paul.

12 PAUL SZILAGYI: I will. I could go
13 on for a long time. But I'm an environmentalist.
14 I took my first environmental class in 1977. If
15 this group -- I would ask you to go home and
16 challenge. If you're truly an environmentalist and
17 if this is truly going to be part of the world --
18 and by the way, nuclear power is on the upswing.
19 If you are truly an environmentalist, there is no
20 better place on the planet where there's better
21 worker protections and there's better environmental
22 protections than right here.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.
24 Thank you very much. Mike Rozycki.

25 MIKE ROZYCKI: Good evening. My



Rozvcki, Mike, Commenter ID No. T39 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 name is Mike Rozvcki. I'm the County planner for
2 San Miguel County. The County has provided a
3 couple letters already on the PEIS in 2007 and then
4 scoping comments in 2011. And I think, generally,
5 I wanted to come tonight and listen and hear, as
6 the staff makes recommendations to the County
7 Commissioners for the comments prior to the May
8 31st deadline.

9 But I think it's very clear that the
10 County has expressed we have grave concerns with
11 the environmental impacts associated with potential
12 leasing of the uranium leases on the west end of
13 the county. I think 11 or 12 of the mines or lease
14 parcels are in San Miguel County.

15 I think the other thing that we pointed
16 out, and I would want to reiterate, is at this
17 time, there's a lack of a clear and comprehensive
18 cradle-to-grave strategy necessary for safe use of
19 nuclear energy. And I think until there is a
20 better system or strategy for dealing with waste
21 and other impacts, there's a real concern with the
22 nuclear energy industry in proceeding.

23 I think as far as the alternatives, you
24 know, we stated in earlier letters -- and I think
25 it comes closest to what you have as Alternative

T39-1

T39-1

The PEIS evaluated potential impacts for 13 resource areas and human health from the range of reasonable alternatives considered to meet the purpose and need described in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. The evaluation included that of potential impacts from managing waste that could be generated. Under waste management, waste generated in addition to waste rock (which is mostly retained at the mine site location and graded to a preferred slope, provided with a protective top-cover material, and seeded during reclamation) is either taken to a local landfill or to the mill or a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. See also discussion in Section I.3.2.

T39-2

T39-2

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Rozvcki, Mike, Commenter ID No. T39 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 1 -- that would continue to treat uranium lease
2 tracts as reserves held by the Department of Energy
3 for future energy needs and for our country's
4 security, if and when there is safer, nuclear
5 technology for generation and waste disposal that's
6 evolved. Until such time, I think it's appropriate
7 to keep these tracts as reserves rather than
8 offering for lease at this time and selling the
9 material in the open market. I don't see that that
10 relates to this country's security.

11 The other comment that I wanted to make
12 was a personal comment, and as a planner in trying
13 to understand the Programmatic EIS, it seems that
14 there isn't a specific plan. There are a lot of
15 big variety in parcels. I think they range from 25
16 acres to 4,000 acres, some are close to the Dolores
17 River. And it seems that the PEIS sort of just
18 makes some general assumptions and treats them all
19 the same without ranking them in priority, trying
20 to evaluate their impacts. And there really isn't
21 a site-specific plan there and site-specific
22 proposals, so I think there's a lot of really kind
23 of gross assumptions that are made as to impacts,
24 and I'm having a hard time understanding the
25 importance or the validity of the PEIS.

T39-2
(Cont.)

T39-3

T39-3

DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives.

Rozvcki, Mike, Commenter ID No. T39 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

1 Those are my comments. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mike.

3 Angela Dye.

4 ANGELA DYE: Angela Dye, local
5 resident of Telluride.

6 I do not support Alternative 4 as your
7 preferred alternative, neither do I support the
8 leasing or mining of uranium for all the previous
9 reasons that folks have said. It's an onerous
10 resource and we don't know how to handle it. So I
11 think it needs to be left in the ground until we
12 know how to handle the waste. We obviously have
13 not figured that out yet.

14 I would like to add to some of the
15 comments as well as endorse some of the things that
16 have been said. Basically to clean up the spills,
17 the remaining tailings of the uranium that has been
18 excavated so far, especially along our rivers and
19 streams.

20 I would like to also point out that we
21 have 12 pages of mitigation measures that are in
22 ten point type in landscape format. That is an
23 incredible number of mitigation measures to try to,
24 in fact, deal with. They are way too extensive.
25 They are vague and without measurable outcomes or a

Rupp, Marjorie, Commenter ID No. E52

From: Marjorie Rupp
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 5:09:58 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Rupp

E52-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E52-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E52-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E52-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Rupp, Marjorie, Commenter ID No. E52 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E52-5 See responses to E52-1 and E52-2.

Sadowski, Vicki, Commenter ID No. T31

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In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 the record, because I want to make sure I do due
2 diligence and consideration of your comments.

3 And those will be identified and addressed,
4 specifically in the Final EIS as a response -- comment
5 response document.

6 So with that, again, personally I know you
7 took your time to come out here and comment, and it's
8 not without appreciation by the Department, because
9 our document will be better because of the comments we
10 receive tonight.

11 I did see a hand, and if you would like to
12 speak -- or if you have a question for me?

13 VICKI SADOWSKI: Actually, I travel a lot
14 and I just got home and I heard about this on the
15 television news very quickly, so I rushed up here. I
16 feel like I'm not, you know, I don't have enough
17 preparation.

18 But I feel this is extremely, extremely
19 important. I was going to ask where the next meeting
20 is so that, you know, I can prepare and know my
21 schedule. And how do you find out about these
22 meetings? And I would like to make a comment. I'll
23 say something.

24 I just don't feel like I had time to really
25 think about this. But I would like to say I was born



T31-1

T31-1 Comment noted.

Sadowski, Vicki, Commenter ID No. T31 (Cont.)

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1 in Ouray, Colorado, and raised here on a ranch. And I
2 have family and friends and know people all over
3 Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. And the four
4 corners are just absolutely incredible.

5 One of the things, being raised the way I
6 was, we had consideration for all of our neighbors,
7 and anything that we ever did, we came together with
8 our neighbors before we made a decision. Because
9 everything we did in our area affected all others.
10 We're connected. Life is connected. It's so
11 important. This is an issue that's extremely
12 important, so I wanted to begin with that, that we
13 need to really think of the highest good for all life.

14 Each of us have our feelings and our
15 understanding, and my heart goes to everyone, because
16 everyone cares. The economics -- all of it is
17 important.

18 But I think the greater thing is to put
19 certain things into priority; economics, yes, we need
20 that. But at what cost? So we really have to look at
21 all of the levels in the areas of what we're working
22 at. And we do, you know, to work with things to
23 balance it out so that it works for a win/win
24 situation for all, I think is very important.

25 Educating the public, I feel a lot of people

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T31-1
(Cont.)

T31-2

T31-2

Information regarding the PEIS and the NEPA process undertaken by DOE can be found on the project web site.

Sadowski, Vicki, Commenter ID No. T31 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 I've spoken to, they look at information up here --
2 and I thank you for having this time where we can
3 educate ourselves, ask questions, look at what we're
4 dealing with. But many people in the public feel like
5 they really even don't understand after they come and
6 look at something like this.

7 So I wish there was a little more research
8 and education that can be done for the public so they
9 have a greater way of looking at these and the new
10 compliances, all these compliances.

11 Right now what I'm looking at is there's an
12 old age moving out and a new age moving in, meaning
13 incredible technology, biology, astrophysics; we have
14 a whole new science. Incredible things are happening.

15 So as an old age, you might say is moving
16 out and new age coming in, we're the balancers. We're
17 a part of the old age, the new age, and everything in
18 between. So every one of us has a deep responsibility
19 for this world. It's a living organism.

20 Life is important for water, animals, each
21 other. So life -- I hope to be speaking for life.
22 The one thing that I've seen -- there are three major
23 things: Competition, acquisition, and consumption is a
24 downfall, it's not win/win, it's not for everyone. We
25 need competition, we need certain things, but

T31-2
(Cont.)

Sadowski, Vicki, Commenter ID No. T31 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
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1 everything within a balance.

2 So speaking for humanity, for life, for the
3 new children that are raised in this world, we need to
4 really consider what we're doing.

5 We need to research and not just talk about
6 money but do deep research into what we're about to
7 do. Life is very -- it needs a lot of nurturing. When
8 we go into taking from life, you need to make sure
9 we're giving back to life. So thank you so very much.

10 MR. CAMERON: And could you just introduce
11 yourself?

12 VICKI SADOWSKI: I'm sorry, my name is Vicki
13 Sadowski.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Vicki.

15 MR. PLIENESS: I will have no more to say,
16 other than please take the time, look over the
17 posters, spend some time, because I can't agree more
18 with most people that want to learn. It doesn't
19 matter what side of this issue you're on, if you want
20 to talk with us and work with us, that is the greatest
21 opportunity we have to make changes in our PEIS as we
22 go forward.

23 So please take the opportunity. Thank you
24 very much for coming.

25 (No further public comment;
hearing concluded at 9:00 p.m.)

T31-3

T31-3

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Safken, Melody, Commenter ID No. E83

From: Melody Safken
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 14, 2013 12:41:11 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Melody Safken

E83-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E83-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E83-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E83-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Safken, Melody, Commenter ID No. E83 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E83-5 See responses to E83-1 and E83-2.

Safken, Melody, Commenter ID No. E128

From: Melody Safken
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2013 5:02 AM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Melody Safken

Saftler, Michael, Commenter ID No. T44

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 Michael Saftler, and then we're going to go to
2 David Glynn and Glen Williams.

3 MICHAEL SAFTLER: Hi. My name is
4 Michael Saftler. I've been a resident of this
5 region for 39 years, and this is the first time I
6 have considered leaving because of what is being
7 proposed.

8 Despite irrational claims to the
9 contrary, uranium has proven itself to be
10 uncontainable. There is no way to mine it in a
11 vacuum. Once it's dug up, it emits harmful
12 radiation. When a person is exposed to radiation,
13 it accumulates in the body. Once it accumulates in
14 your body, it can and often does kill. When it is
15 concentrated by mining, milling, and processing,
16 the lethal toxicity rises exponentially. That
17 should be enough to stop this procedure in its
18 tracks, but for some mystifying reason, it
19 continues. Therefore, please accept my comments as
20 heartfelt.

21 My concern is for the health and welfare
22 of millions of people, and no amount of jobs or
23 energy generation or, heaven forbid, nuclear
24 weapons will offset the harm that will befall our
25 great nation if these mines are allowed to continue



T44-1

T44-1

The human health evaluation performed for this PEIS is discussed in Sections 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5, for Alternatives 1 to 5, respectively. The evaluation considers the potential for latent cancer fatalities from the exploration, mine development/mine operations, and reclamation for the five alternatives. The estimates for the alternatives indicate that potential impacts to off-site residents and on-site recreationists would be within regulatory requirements.

Saftler, Michael, Commenter ID No. T44 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 to be developed. No new report will persuade me
2 that prolonging this industry is a good idea or
3 that it is viable or safe.

4 I would first like to address your
5 acronyms. FONSI, finding of no significant impact.
6 According to your scientific studies, you have
7 concluded that mining of uranium and its
8 aftereffects will result in no impact of
9 significance. Tell that to all the people who have
10 died because of exposure -- I'm sorry, I get
11 emotional about this -- because of exposure to
12 uranium and radiation. Tell that to the people who
13 are sick and in the process of dying today because
14 of their exposure to uranium.

15 We are told that there are new procedures
16 and new regulations and, therefore, finding of no
17 significant impact. No only are the procedures
18 unproven, but the regulations currently in place
19 are not enforced and are currently resulting in
20 significant impacts. What you call FONSI is
21 nothing more than a FONSI scheme, like a Ponzi
22 scheme that sells people a false bill of goods and
23 ultimately results in individuals losing
24 everything. This FONSI scheme that you are
25 proposing to foist upon us is a false bill of

T44-1
(Cont.)

T44-2

T44-2 See response to T44-1.

Saftler, Michael, Commenter ID No. T44 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 goods. There is no safe way to mine, mill, process
2 and transport uranium, none. Ultimately, people
3 will lose everything, including their lives, in
4 your proposed FONSI scheme.

5 Then we have your PEIS, Programmatic
6 Environmental Impact Statement. Environmental
7 impacts are not conjecture. They are supposed to
8 be based on science and historic facts. The
9 science and historic facts show that uranium and
10 its attendant radiation pollutes the environment
11 and kills living kind. There is no way of covering
12 that up. That is the history of this industry.

13 Look at the Navajo Nation, look at Urvan, look at
14 Naturita, look at Nucla, look at Grand Junction.

15 That is our immediate neighborhood and
16 those are our neighbors and many of those people
17 are dead from exposure to radiation from uranium.
18 How can anyone conclude that, therefore, there's a
19 finding of no significant impact. If that is not
20 significant, what is? How many deaths do you need
21 before you cross your significant threshold?

22 I have another acronym for you to
23 consider: CAWS, C-A-W-S, clean air, water, and
24 soil. Those are the building blocks of life.
25 Without clean air to breathe, a human being will

T44-2
(Cont.)

T44-3

T44-3 The term "finding of no significant impact" has not been used in the PEIS for making any conclusions. See response to T44-1.

T44-4

T44-4 Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1 evaluate potential impacts to air quality for the five alternatives.

Saftler, Michael, Commenter ID No. T44 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 die in a matter of minutes. Without clean water, a
2 human being will die in a matter of days. Without
3 clean soil to grow our food and feed our livestock,
4 a human being will die in a matter of a few
5 seasons. These are the basis of human and all life
6 on this planet.

7 MR. CAMERON: And --

8 MICHAEL SAFTLER: I will wrap it up.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

10 MICHAEL SAFTLER: Downriver from
11 here, there are tens of millions of people who are
12 drinking and irrigating out of the Colorado River,
13 which is fed by the Dolores. These mines will be
14 interacting with the Dolores River. Any
15 environmental assessment needs to include an
16 analysis of those impacts to those millions of
17 downriver life forms.

18 Energy, jobs. We have many other options
19 besides mining, milling, processing, transporting,
20 and further processing uranium in order to set in
21 motion a chain reaction that attempts to contain
22 massive amounts of concentrated energy that, when
23 uncontained, can annihilate millions of people just
24 to boil water or to turn a turbine. Fukushima and
25 Chernobyl and Three Mile Island and Uravan and

T44-4
(Cont.)

T44-5

T44-5 Sections 4.1.4, 4.2.4, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, and 4.5.4 evaluate potential impacts to water resources for the five alternatives.

T44-6

T44-6 Comment noted.

Saftler, Michael, Commenter ID No. T44 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 Cañon City and endless other locations where leaks
2 and explosions have occurred scientifically prove
3 this industry is significantly uncontainable and
4 unsustainable.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. We are
6 going to hear from David Glynn, then Glen Williams.

7 DAVID GLYNN: My name is David
8 Glynn. I'm a resident of Ophir, Colorado. I'm for
9 Alternative 1.

10 I would like to speak to the end game of
11 uranium. We are really looking at the beginning,
12 and the beginning is not connected so far with the
13 end game. There's no need for the beginning of
14 this process, if we are not for the end. Now, the
15 end game of uranium is nuclear weapons and nuclear
16 power plants. Nuclear weapons are an abomination.
17 I can't say it any clearer. The nuclear industry
18 produces all kinds of waste that we have no
19 solution for in its storage and to make it and keep
20 it safe.

21 Then there's always the chance of nuclear
22 disaster. Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, Fukushima,
23 and then a disaster waiting to happen like the one
24 that this country avoided two months after
25 Fukushima. Now, this was a near disaster that went

T44-6
(Cont.)

Sandberg, Nick, Commenter ID No. W12

Thank you for your comment, Nick Sandberg.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50012.

Comment Date: May 7, 2013 12:28:05PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50012

First Name: Nick
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Sandberg
Organization: San Juan County, Utah
Address: PO Box 9
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Monticello
State: UT
Zip: 84535
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

San Juan County, Utah, has reviewed the Draft ULP EIS dated March 2013 and finds that it has adequately identified and considered the effects of the various alternatives on socioeconomics, transportation and human health as these resource concerns pertain to San Juan County. We also find that the analysis has adequately identified potential mitigation measures to minimize expected impacts from the alternatives. We have no recommendations for changes to this document. We appreciate this opportunity to comment and participate in this process as a cooperating agency.

W12-1

W12-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Sands, Ed, Commenter ID No. E29

From: Ed Sands
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 3:52:52 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Ed Sands

E29-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E29-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E29-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E29-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Sands, Ed, Commenter ID No. E29 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E29-5 See responses to E29-1 and E29-2.

Saunders, Bob, Commenter ID No. T32

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

1 Chip, anything else I should bring to
2 attention?

3 MR. CAMERON: No. I think we are
4 ready to go to public comment.

5 We have two representatives from the
6 Telluride Town Council with us tonight, and I'm
7 going to start with them, with Chris Myers and Bob
8 Saunders, and then we are going to go to Shauna
9 Palmer, Randy Parker, and Jennifer Parker.

10 And, Chris, if wouldn't mind coming up
11 here.

12 CHRIS MYERS: Can we start with Bob?

13 MR. CAMERON: Are we starting with
14 Bob? Okay. All right.

15 BOB SAUNDERS: First of all, I would
16 like to say I'm for Alternative 1. And also I have
17 a couple of photographs here. Is there a way to
18 enter those into the record or...

19 MR. PLIENESS: Yes.

20 BOB SAUNDERS: I'll get to those in
21 a second.

22 There's so much wrong with the nuclear
23 industry and uranium, in general, it's hard to know
24 where to start. Uranium, when processed, is one of
25 the most toxic substances on the planet. We have

← T32-1

T32-1 Uranium is a natural radioactive element as discussed in Section 3.5.1.1 of the PEIS. All isotopes of uranium eventually decay to form radioactive isotopes of other elements.

T32-1
(Cont.)

Saunders, Bob, Commenter ID No. T32 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
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1 so many substances on the planet that are polluting
2 our environment already, and yet we continue to
3 mine and process uranium which has the potential of
4 polluting our planet for a much longer time than
5 most other substances.

6 A couple of examples: Since 1946, the
7 U.S. Navy dumped 55-gallon drums of nuclear waste
8 near the Farallon Islands, some 30 miles off the
9 California coast near San Francisco. They simply
10 threw the 55-gallon steel drums over the side of
11 the ships. When the drums failed to sink, which
12 was most of the time, they used the drums for
13 target practice and shot them full of holes,
14 letting water in and nuclear waste out.

15 This went on until the 1990s. It was
16 estimated that almost 50,000 drums were dumped near
17 the Farallons alone and many hundreds of thousands
18 of drums in about 50 sites in the oceans. The U.S.
19 was not alone in this. Russia, China, Japan, New
20 Zealand, and most of the European countries are
21 also culprits.

22 In Fallujah, there has been a huge
23 increase in birth defects, infant mortality,
24 childhood cancers, and all cancers. It has been
25 reported there has been a fourfold increase in all

T32-1
(Cont.)

Saunders, Bob, Commenter ID No. T32 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

20

1 cancers since Fallujah was attacked in 2004.
2 There's been a twelvefold increase in childhood
3 cancers. Infant mortality is four times higher
4 than in Jordan and eight times higher than in
5 Kuwait. There has been a thirty-eight-fold
6 increase in leukemia, ten times the normal rate for
7 breast cancer, significant increase in lymphoma and
8 brain tumors as well.

9 There has also been a noticeable drop in
10 the male birthrate since 2004, suggesting that
11 genetic damage from radiation exposure is more
12 prevalent in male than female fetuses. There was a
13 similar drop in the male birthrate after the
14 bombing of Hiroshima.

15 In Fallujah, this has been attributed to
16 the use of depleted uranium and ammunition used by
17 the U.S. military. There have been many people
18 exposed to radiation, both from the attacks and the
19 aftermath when scavengers went into the battle
20 fields to retrieve any metal that might be of
21 value.

22 Here in this country, there are many
23 examples of cancer and other illnesses related to
24 exposure to uranium and other radioactive
25 substances. There was a huge toxic spill on the

T32-1
(Cont.)

Saunders, Bob, Commenter ID No. T32 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

21

1 Navajo reservation near Church Rock which dumped
2 huge amounts of radioactive waste into the Rio
3 Puerco. The Navajo nation is still feeling the
4 effects of that exposure and higher cancer rates
5 and other associated diseases.

6 The one photograph there is a billboard
7 seen outside of Tomb City alerting uranium workers
8 that home nursing was available at no cost. The
9 other photo is a glass top table on my deck. It is
10 a clear glass top table. It is covered with dust
11 from a storm the likes of which we get here in the
12 San Juans. The dust is picked up west of here and
13 deposited in the mountains. There are already
14 uranium mines in the west end of our county that
15 could be contributing to the dust you see in this
16 photo. We are right downwind from the source.

17 Is it possible to tell if the dust comes
18 from the mines? Maybe not. Is it worth the risk
19 to open up more mines in the west end? Absolutely
20 not.

21 The uranium industry, by and large, has
22 been a terrible polluter in the past and the
23 present. The Cotter Mill in Cañon City is a
24 perfect example of the industry's lack of
25 conscience when it comes to the pollution they

T32-1
(Cont.)

T32-2

T32-2

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation (including potential air quality and water resources and quality impacts) in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

The lessees are required to be in compliance with Federal, state, and local requirements.

Saunders, Bob, Commenter ID No. T32 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

22

1 create. The Schwartzwalder mine in Jefferson
2 County, Colorado is an example of a mine that is
3 polluting the groundwater which runs into Ralston
4 Creek and then Ralston Reservoir, a source of
5 drinking water for Denver and Arvada. The CDPHE
6 and the EPA seem either unwilling or unable to hold
7 the owners of the mine and the mill accountable for
8 the ongoing health hazard they are creating.

9 Why am I bringing these statistics to
10 you? Because it starts here. It starts with the
11 DOE. It starts with you. Any further development
12 of the uranium industry starts with you. The
13 permits you issue allow the pollution of our
14 environment to continue. The permits you issue
15 allow more of the kind of disease that I have
16 described to continue.

17 There are many new and developing sources
18 of green and renewable energy that are coming
19 online that will allow us to continue to live the
20 lifestyle we are accustomed to without the cost to
21 life and environment that the nuclear industry
22 brings along with it. It's time to stop mining and
23 milling uranium now while we still have a chance to
24 save the environment that supports us and all the
25 people who will follow us. It starts here. It

T32-2
(Cont.)

T32-3

T32-3

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Saunders, Bob, Commenter ID No. T32 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

23

T32-3
(Cont.)

1 starts with the DOE. It starts with you.

2 Sorry. I forgot to introduce myself.

3 I'm Bob Saunders, Mayor Pro Tem of Telluride,
4 although I'm speaking for myself. Thank you for
5 your time.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Now we
7 will go to Chris. This is Chris Myers.

8 CHRIS MYERS: My name is Chris
9 Myers. I serve on the Telluride Town Council and I
10 have for three years, but I'm here tonight speaking
11 as a citizen. Given that the comment period for
12 written comments has until May 31st, it's likely
13 that the Telluride Town Council will issue formal
14 written comments and send those along shortly.

15 First, I would like to address some
16 broader issues, which I think Bob touched on.
17 First and foremost is that in 60 years of nuclear
18 industry in this country, we have failed as a
19 country politically and as citizens to ever come up
20 with a place for disposal of radioactive waste.
21 I'm absolutely flabbergasted that we are
22 considering increasing the supply of uranium in the
23 marketplace when we have failed miserably. Nobody
24 wants it in any of their communities, in their
25 backyard, so why are we even considering the



Savant, Sam, Commenter ID No. W13

Thank you for your comment, Sam Savant.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50013.

Comment Date: May 19, 2013 09:14:42AM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50013

First Name: Sam
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Savant
Organization:
Address:
Address 2:
Address 3:
City:
State:
Zip:
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Dear Department of Energy,

Please reissue the PEIS for comment as it is lacking in some important areas. For example, it does not address how to protect endangered or threatened species; how to maintain satisfactory water quality in the Dolores River; or how the immense amount of water needed for mining will impact the already drought-stricken area.

As a Colorado native, I know that there are enough old mines that turned into Superfund sites. We must prevent this from happening again. At a minimum, the companies profiting from mining operations should put a substantial amount of money into a fund for future cleanup of pollution caused by mining. This should be done before they are granted permission to mine. I must put money into an escrow account to ensure that I will make my house insurance and tax payments. Mining companies should do the same to ensure that they fulfill their obligations to clean up the waste from their operations. It's not fair that the (often foreign) mining companies take the benefits, while USA citizens must shoulder the burden of the toxic waste.

W13-1

W13-1 The evaluations in the PEIS do address the endangered or threatened species and water quality/water depletion issues. DOE has consulted with the USFWS. The Biological Assessment (BA) prepared for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA and the Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the USFWS in August 2013, are presented in Appendix E of this PEIS. PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

W13-2

W13-2 Lease tract operations are currently covered by reclamation bonds, calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

Schoettler, Joanne, Commenter ID No. E82

From: Joanne Schoettler
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 3:02:03 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Joanne Schoettler

E82-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E82-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E82-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E82-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Schoettler, Joanne, Commenter ID No. E82 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E82-5 See responses to E82-1 and E82-2.

Schofield, Mark, Commenter ID No. E15

From: Mark Schofield
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 12:48:50 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Mark Schofield

E15-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E15-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E15-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E15-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

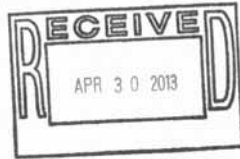
Schofield, Mark, Commenter ID No. E15 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E15-5 See responses to E15-1 and E15-2.

Sharp, Rod, Commenter ID No. L20



Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

April 16th, 2013

Dear Mr. Plieness,

This letter is regarding the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) issued by your agency for the Uranium Leasing Program (ULP). After reviewing the documents, I am in favor of adopting Alternative 4, which is also your agency's preferred alternative. This approach would continue to allow development on the 31 leases contained in the ULP. My support is based predominantly on the tremendous economic benefits that uranium mining brings to the local regions.

Uranium mining can support hundreds of jobs directly, and many more tangentially. The local businesses that grow in and around the communities that are supported by the mines also provide employment opportunities, as demand for mining inputs grows, as well as a full range of support services – restaurants, grocery stores, service stations, retail shops and so on. This kind of economic growth and local prosperity is only provided by a healthy base industry, such as mining. We have a wealth of uranium located right here in our region, and it makes a great deal of sense to put our economy to work in recovering it.

While the job growth alone would be enough of a reason to support the ULP, there are other economic advantages as well; more people employed, and more businesses open, means a larger tax base, both in terms of income tax and property taxes. This, in conjunction with the royalties and other direct payments made from the mines themselves, supports the growth of necessary local services – everything from police, fire, and emergency medical, to road and bridge maintenance, to local school facilities. All of this would be put to risk if the leases are terminated or reduced.

There is no doubt that you will receive comments from a few individuals and outside groups asking that the leases be withdrawn for environmental reasons. The fact is that the environmental impacts are minimal, and that uranium mining can take place without the type of risks that these lobbyists will try and claim. The evidence is in the draft EIS itself, and backed up by our long and proud history of responsible mining in the region.

Please let our communities continue to reap the economic benefits of uranium mining, by adopting your preferred alternative for this PEIS.

Sincerely,

Rod Sharp
2659 Hemlock Ct.
Grand Junction, CO 81506

L20-1

L20-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

L20-2

L20-2

See response to L20-1.

Siglin, Patrick, Commenter ID No. T18

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

1 PATRICK SIGLIN: Evening, everyone. My name ← 21

2 is Patrick Siglin, I'm a geologist for Black Range

3 Minerals; we're a uranium mining company and have an

4 office located in Golden, Colorado, and Canon City.

5 And I support the Department of Energy's

6 recommendation on this PEIS. I support it because I

7 believe that the mining of uranium through the

8 generation of power by using uranium can be done

9 safely and efficiently. And therefore, I believe that

10 it is in the best interest of Montrose County, Mesa

11 County, San Miguel County, the directly surrounding

12 areas, the state of Colorado and the United States of

13 America to follow the recommendation of the Department

14 of Energy at this point. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Patrick. →

16 Dennis?

17 DENNIS MITCHELL: My name is Dennis

18 Mitchell; I've lived in Montrose for 36 years. I

19 support the biggest amount of leases that you can

20 open. For the simple reason that we don't mine our

21 resources in this country; we mine from somewhere

22 else, and they pollute a lot worse than us. If you

23 want to go look and see what they do in China, look on

24 the Internet and see the mining there.

25 I've been involved in mining and minerals my

T18-1

T18-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Smith, Wally, Commenter ID No. T24

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

28

1 that river or bedrock either. So I know we had scenic
2 river impact studies going about a year ago; I worked
3 on the studies in the Delta area and worked with some
4 of the people in San Miguel County doing those. So I
5 do not think there is an impact. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Betty.
7 We're going to go to Wally Smith and then Marvin
8 Ballantyne and Jim Riddell.

9 WALLY SMITH: I'm Wally Smith. I live in
10 Montrose. I've lived in the west almost all my life,
11 except a couple years. I am a downwinder. And mining
12 is not like it used to be, let me tell you. It is a
13 total different picture.

14 Everybody throws up all the problems we've
15 had in the past; yes, we had to win World War II, but
16 we won it. And a lot of the west end was opened up
17 (inaudible) was after the war. And the canyon had no
18 road down through there, and it was paved and done by
19 the Department of Energy, I think, in the '40s.

20 And that was to get uranium out of there.
21 I'd just like to say that I've been in the Caribbean
22 quite a bit and in South America, and the Chinese are
23 buying up a lot of the minerals and the gas. And this
24 should scare you to death.

25 We have two mines in Ouray County. I think

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T24-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

T24-1

Smith, Wally, Commenter ID No. T24 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

29

1 both of those mines are Chinese mines. And I think
2 this is domestic, we need to hold on to our own and
3 not ship it out. I think that's really important.

4 I was in the manufacturing business for 30
5 years. And I know without the trace metals and these
6 things, I wouldn't have been in business. And if we
7 run out of these, China is going to run it.

8 And if you think that's wrong, we wouldn't
9 have any of those solar problems -- solar projects,
10 because it takes certain metals to make those bearings
11 work. And without those, we are dead.

12 And I think we need to make sure that we do
13 it domestic, though. I think that's important.
14 Because China is buying up our destiny, and we're
15 selling it to them. And we have to watch out for
16 this. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Wally.
18 And Marvin Ballantyne is coming up to speak to us.

19 Marvin?

20 MARVIN BALLANTYNE: Thank you. Good
21 evening, my name is Marvin Ballantyne, I'm a member of
22 Western Colorado Congress, but I'm just speaking on my
23 own here tonight.

24 You know, whatever alternative is approved
25 here does not make mining happen. Mining is a

T24-1
(Cont.)



Stettner, Paul, Commenter ID No. E11

From: Paul Stettner
To: mail_lulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:33:43 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Paul Stettner

E11-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E11-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E11-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E11-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Stettner, Paul, Commenter ID No. E11 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E11-5 See responses to E11-1 and E11-2.

Stettner, Paul, Commenter ID No. E63

From: Paul Stettner
To: mail_lulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Saturday, June 01, 2013 12:00:19 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Paul Stettner

E63-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E63-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E63-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E63-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Stettner, Paul, Commenter ID No. E63 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E63-5 See responses to E63-1 and E63-2.

Stucklen, Deborah, Commenter ID No. W1

Thank you for your comment, Deborah Stucklen.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is ULPD50001.

Comment Date: April 3, 2013 16:20:28PM
Uranium Leasing Program PEIS
Comment ID: ULPD50001

First Name: Deborah
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Stucklen
Organization:
Address: 3349 N. Chestnut Ave.
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Loveland
State: CO
Zip: 805382527
Country: USA
Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

I lived in Montrose, CO 22 years and on jeep trips in the mountains saw the terrible contamination left from the uranium mining that has never been cleaned up. Now, I feel strongly that before any more uranium gets mined, the company or companies that made this mess in the first place need to clean up. Uranium has an extremely long half life that causes radiation sickness for hundreds of thousands of years.

W1-1

W1-1

The evaluation for potential impacts on human health including impacts from potential exposure to uranium and radon are discussed in Sections 4.1.5, 4.2.5, 4.3.5, 4.4.5, and 4.5.5 for Alternatives 1 to 5, respectively. Human health cumulative impacts are discussed in Section 4.7. The results indicate that with adherence to regulatory requirements and implementation of mitigation measures, the uranium mining activities can be conducted in a manner protective of the human health and the environment.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

Syldona, Maria, Commenter ID No. E6

From: Maria Syldona
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:04:06 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Maria Syldona

E6-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E6-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E6-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E6-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Syldona, Maria, Commenter ID No. E6 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E6-5 See responses to E6-1 and E6-2.

Szilagyi, Paul, Commenter ID No. T38

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 recommending that you don't go any further with
2 uranium mines.

3 MR. CAMERON: And, Catherine, could
4 you sum up for us.

5 CATHERINE PETERSON: And that was my
6 last thing, the Indian tribes.

7 MR. CAMERON: Perfect.

8 CATHERINE PETERSON: Anyway, thank
9 you very, very much for coming here, and obviously
10 we need -- for our health and economic and
11 everything, we need Option 1. We need to like
12 squelch this whole thing.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Catherine.
14 Now to Paul Szilagyi, and I hope that I'm
15 pronouncing that sort of correctly, and then we
16 have Mike Rozycki.

17 PAUL SZILAGYI: It's Szilagyi. It's
18 Hungarian. And I don't expect any claps when I'm
19 done, but I do thank you for welcome miners to your
20 territory. It's very nice that you put that up.

21 I'm here for three hats today. I'm here
22 for myself, and most of my comments will be about
23 myself. I will also talk as an investor in a
24 mining company, a mining company that has no
25 interest in any of the leases that are under



T38-1

T38-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. Alternative 4 provides for the continuation of the ULP (with exploration and mine development /mine operation, and reclamation) at the 31 lease tracts for the next 10-year period or for another reasonable period.

Szilagvi, Paul, Commenter ID No. T38 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 discussion here today under the ULP, so I have no
2 dog in the hunt. And, thirdly, I come to you as a
3 board member of the Western Small Miners
4 Association.

5 And all of my hats wish to recommend the
6 DOE go forward with their preferred Alternative No.
7 4. The Western Small Miners will likely issue a
8 formal comment in support of this. For those of
9 you who don't know the organization, it was formed
10 a few years ago. It's to foster, you know, to
11 enhance and to promote mining and agriculture in
12 this area. It's to foster economic development,
13 which is probably number one and should be listed
14 that way. And it's also to ensure and promote
15 public health and safety.

16 The majority of people that you are
17 talking about that are economically impacted, bread
18 and butter wise, providing for their family, live
19 here. They want it done safe. There's many
20 comments about the history and the legacy of
21 uranium mining. That would be like me saying I'm
22 going to go out and prepare a business plan with
23 multiple years of financial statements. I'm not
24 going to use a calculator, I'm not going to use a
25 computer, I'm going to use pens and pencils and

T38-1
(Cont.)

T38-2

T38-2 See response to T38-1.

Szilagvi, Paul, Commenter ID No. T38 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 adding machines.

2 It's not the same world. Trust me. And

3 you need to look at the standards that we have to

4 meet at a uranium mine to even get a permit. I

5 would love to take any of you, if you really wanted

6 to know. That said, I'm not known for uranium

7 mining.

8 I'm known for hybrid electric vehicle

9 technology development, part of a group we financed

10 with our own money, and built the vehicles that run

11 on 16th Street Mall in Denver. It was the world's

12 largest, and still is, series hybrid vehicles.

13 They carry 116 people. They have an engine smaller

14 than a Toyota Prius. They pollute less. In those

15 are batteries. In those are generators. You are

16 going to need those for any kind of energy that's

17 advanced.

18 And no one's talked about vanadium here.

19 Vanadium is really an important mineral. It's part

20 of these lease tracts. And this is one of the few

21 areas in the world where uranium and vanadium has

22 been deposited together. Vanadium is -- has great

23 promise for standby and facility level, grid level

24 energy storage.

25 Why do we need uranium? They're charged

T38-2
(Cont.)

T38-3

T38-3 See response to T38-1.

Szilagvi, Paul, Commenter ID No. T38 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 with it. They're charged with it because we get 20
2 percent of our power, electrical power, from
3 nuclear. We need uranium. We import over 90
4 percent of what we use. That's not something
5 that's a good position for our country. If we want
6 to move away from it, that's fine. But remember
7 that you are going to increase your carbon
8 footprint, so think about it and decide what you
9 really want to do.

10 MR. CAMERON: If you could finish up
11 for us, Paul.

12 PAUL SZILAGYI: I will. I could go
13 on for a long time. But I'm an environmentalist.
14 I took my first environmental class in 1977. If
15 this group -- I would ask you to go home and
16 challenge. If you're truly an environmentalist and
17 if this is truly going to be part of the world --
18 and by the way, nuclear power is on the upswing.
19 If you are truly an environmentalist, there is no
20 better place on the planet where there's better
21 worker protections and there's better environmental
22 protections than right here.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.
24 Thank you very much. Mike Rozycki.

25 MIKE ROZYCKI: Good evening. My

T38-3
(Cont.)

T38-4

T38-4 Comment noted.



Taylor, Kristin, Commenter ID No. L9



DRAFT URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DOE/EIS-0472-D)
U.S. Department of Energy

WRITTEN COMMENT FORM

Public comment period closes on May 31, 2013

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. / Mr. & Mrs. ___ Dr. ___
Name: Kristin Taylor
Title: US Citizen
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: 970 728 3306 E-Mail Address: Kt@raydiant.com

Comment: _____

* Reserve *the uranium in the ground for future domestic needs
Do not extract it for China now!

* Remediate the public lands already destroyed by the uranium
industry to prevent further contamination of the Dolores Watershed
& create jobs now. We want to use OUR public lands
for Renewables - to generate jobs

* CLEAN energy for the U.S.

WITHHOLDING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: Information you provide on this form may be published as part of the public record for this project, including publication on the Internet. Individual respondents may request confidentiality by checking one of the two boxes below. The DOE will honor such requests to the extent allowed by law. All submission from organizations and businesses, or from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available to the public in their entirety.

- Withhold my name and address from the public record.
- Withhold only my address from the public record

Comment form may be mailed to:
Mr. Ray Plienness
DOE ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

Comment form may be sent by electronic mail to:
ulpeis@anl.gov

L9-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

L9-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

L9-3 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

Taylor, Linda, Commenter ID No. E124

From: Linda Taylor
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Concern for those most at risk
Date: Monday, July 01, 2013 11:35:05 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

As the leader of an Independent Living Center serving 12 counties on the Western Slope of Colorado, I am extremely concerned about the long term effects of environmental pollution on the health of our citizens. People with disabilities at every age show disproportionate high poverty, unemployment, use of public benefits, isolation and public health risks. Thus I urge restraint in development of such a dangerous and toxic resource as uranium.

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Linda Taylor

E124-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E124-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E124-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E124-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Taylor, Linda, Commenter ID No. E124 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E124-5 See responses to E124-1 and E124-2.

Terrill, Nancy, Commenter ID No. E27

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 1:51:30 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Nancy Terrill [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2013 12:12 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Terrill

E27-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

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E27-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

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E27-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Terrill, Nancy, Commenter ID No. E27 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E27-5 See responses to E27-1 and E27-2.

Terry, Noalani, Commenter ID No. E72

From: Noalani Terry
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 7:46:54 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Noalani Terry

E72-1

E72-2

E72-3

E72-4

E72-5

E72-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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E72-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

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E72-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E72-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Terry, Noalani, Commenter ID No. E72 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E72-5 See responses to E72-1 and E72-2.

Terry, Noalani, Commenter ID No. E106

From: Noalani Terry
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Monday, June 03, 2013 8:58:17 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Noalani Terry

E106-1

E106-2

E106-3

E106-4

E106-5

E106-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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E106-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

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E106-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E106-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

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Terry, Noalani, Commenter ID No. E106 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E106-5 See responses to E106-1 and E106-2.

Thompson, Donald, Commenter ID No. E110

From: Donald Thompson
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 2:42:32 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Donald Thompson

E110-1

E110-2

E110-3

E110-4

E110-5

E110-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

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Thompson, Donald, Commenter ID No. E110 (Cont.)

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Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E110-5 See responses to E110-1 and E110-2.

Thompson, Jane, Commenter ID No. T57

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

1 And as far as I know, I'm not a mutant and she
2 lived in Uravan before I was born. I think there's
3 a lot of junk science that has influenced all these
4 impact statements and everything else.

5 Basically that's what I have to say, is
6 just we need to go by science and not by emotions
7 from other areas.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Troy. Is
9 there anybody else who wants to come up and talk to
10 us?

11 Jane, do you want to reconsider?

12 JANE THOMPSON: My name is Jane
13 Thompson, and I'm the president of the Rimrock
14 Historical Society. We are working very hard right
15 now to preserve the history of the Uravan Mineral
16 Belt, the town of Uravan, and the uranium mining
17 industry, which we are all very proud of.

18 I would also like to say that I'm third
19 generation to live in Uravan. My grandparents
20 moved there when there were no houses. They lived
21 in a tent town. The Rimrockers just leased from
22 the County 17 acres in Uravan that the County just
23 had acquired from Dow Chemical, and we plan to
24 build a museum and an RV park to sustain the
25 museum. And we would appreciate the support and we



T57-1

T57-1

Comment noted.

Thompson, Jane, Commenter ID No. T57 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

22

T57-1
(Cont.)

1 are very, very proud of our uranium history.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Jane.

3 We still have time for anybody else who
4 might want to come up and talk. If we don't have
5 anybody else now, Ray is going to come up and close
6 this part of the meeting out for us, and then we
7 are going to adjourn to the posters and just talk
8 about whatever you want to talk about with Ray and
9 the DOE experts. Ray.

10 MR. PLIENESS: Thank you. What will
11 happen from here is comments that we receive will
12 become a part of the record, as well as all written
13 comments that we get by May 31st. In addition, any
14 comments that we receive after May 31st that we can
15 still utilize in our evaluation, we'll do so. From
16 that, we will develop a response-to-comments
17 document and make any changes and recommendations
18 that we need to in the final EIS. So from these
19 comments -- without a doubt, there will be changes
20 to the final EIS. What those will be will still be
21 determined by the comments. So each and every one
22 of your comments will be considered and ultimately
23 be provided to the decision-makers before they make
24 their final record of decision sometime early next
25 year.

Thurston, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T43

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

52

1 Show me an example where it's safe and
2 I'm willing to listen. I've done some research. I
3 haven't been able to find one on our planet. We
4 can't contain or dispose of or effectively use this
5 very dangerous, highly toxic substance. It's a
6 gamble to me, and I'm not willing to take the
7 gamble. I'm very conservative.

8 So that's my charge, my question, to the
9 Department of Energy and others. Show me an
10 example where it's safe and we can control it, and
11 there's never a truck that turns over and no one's
12 water ever gets polluted and I will believe you.

13 I will conclude with this before you tell
14 me my time's up. Albert Einstein said of uranium
15 and its use in producing electricity: What an
16 absurdly ridiculous way to boil water.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

18 Linda Thurston.

19 JENNIFER THURSTON: Did you call me
20 Linda?

21 MR. CAMERON: I did. Is that wrong?

22 JENNIFER THURSTON: For the record,
23 my name is Jennifer Thurston. I live in Norwood,
24 Colorado and I'm from San Miguel County, the heart
25 of the Uranium Leasing Program, the most wonderful



Thurston, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T43 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 county in the most wonderful state.

2 And I grew up down the road in sort of
3 the place that I refer to as the cusp between gold
4 country and uranium country, so I understand the
5 landscape. I'm also the director of INFORM, the
6 Information Network for Responsible Mining, and I'm
7 preparing some very detailed comments to submit to
8 you before the end of the deadline. So I'm just
9 going to be as brief as four minutes will allow me
10 to be.

11 INFORM, in 2008, sued the Department of
12 Energy, along with the Colorado Environmental
13 Coalition and Center for Biological Diversity and,
14 a couple years later, the wonderful conservation
15 group Sheep Mountain Alliance. And the reason why
16 we have this PEIS is because of that lawsuit. And
17 I can tell you, I have been rather frustrated. We
18 had these hearings in late summer 2011, and the
19 last time I tried to give comments to the
20 Department of Energy, Laura Kilpatrick, who is the
21 realty officer, spent most of my three-minute
22 hearing rolling her eyes at me.

23 I know it doesn't go into the official
24 transcript about how DOE representatives typically
25 sit in the back of the room with their hands

T43-1

T43-1

Comment noted. DOE appreciates and welcomes public participation (and comments) on the PEIS process.

Thurston, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T43 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 crossed when environmentalists get up and talk.
2 However, last week on the front page of the
3 Telluride Daily Planet, I read a quote from Mr.
4 Plieness about how sincere he is in listening, and
5 I want to be sincere back because I want you to
6 know what I know about this program and about
7 what's happening on our landscape. So I'm going to
8 be very detailed about that in written comments.

9 I want to focus a little bit on San
10 Miguel county. And, actually, just to sort of run
11 through my general feelings about the whole Uranium
12 Leasing Program. You've divided these areas into
13 four tracts: Gateway and Outlaw, Mesa, and the
14 Gateway tracts. There's a higher purpose to those
15 tracts than uranium mining, and it's about
16 recreation and how actively they are used by people
17 who love to ride around on those roads on the ATVs
18 or ride around on their horses. That's a real
19 conflict with uranium mining. And Gateway has such
20 a tremendous potential for recreation and tourism
21 development. It would be a shame not to see those
22 tracts pulled from the program.

23 One of the big concerns that I have has
24 to do with cumulative impacts. I think that the
25 flaws in the studies -- most have to do with you

T43-1
(Cont.)

T43-2

T43-3

T43-2

T43-3

DOE included all 31 lease tracts in the PEIS evaluation as they are all part of the ULP withdrawn lands. DOE will consider mitigation measures on a case-by-case or lease-by-lease basis to assure that potential impacts are minimized to the extent possible including the use of the land for recreational purposes as pointed out by the commenter.

Cumulative impacts evaluation as defined by CEQ guidelines involves the consideration of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions as was done in Section 4.7 of the PEIS.

Thurston, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T43 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 have a very incomplete picture of cumulative
2 impacts.

3 Let's talk about the Paradox tracts for a
4 minute; perhaps the most disturbed, unsettled,
5 scarred area in the entire program. I don't think
6 you understand the concept of cumulative impacts
7 when it comes to uranium mining, that once it's a
8 uranium mine, it's really not good for anything
9 else. And there's a lot of space in between all of
10 those lease tract boundaries where there's also
11 uranium mines going on.

12 We talked a little bit before this
13 meeting started, Mr. Plieness and I, about the
14 congressionally ordered study of the DOE that's
15 basically going to be multiple years in
16 development. It's going to take a long time to
17 truly paint the picture and have an accurate
18 inventory of what's already existing. Somehow when
19 we lack a cumulative notion and a defined idea of
20 what's actually in existence, it does seem a little
21 bit absurd to talk about new mining.

22 The Uravan tracts, also heavily impacted,
23 even though there's been some reclamation work up
24 there. You know, it's really difficult to think
25 about how the tailings graveyards from the various

T43-3
(Cont.)

Thurston, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T43 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 mill sites that have been cleaned up over the years
2 are really out there and that's permanent.

3 I know that the Department of Energy is
4 very proud of the \$65 million in royalties that
5 it's collected in this program, but that's just a
6 drop in the bucket. That's about how much it cost
7 to clean up one mill in Slickrock. And Slickrock
8 is the most important place in the Uranium Leasing
9 Program. It's just a marvelous, marvelous area,
10 and it's San Miguel County and, therefore, I care
11 the most about Slickrock. Those tracts are not
12 suitable for mining. They are directly endangering
13 the health of the Dolores River.

14 I wanted to briefly talk to you -- I
15 don't know how much time I have left.

16 MR. CAMERON: Just a little bit,
17 Jennifer.

18 JENNIFER THURSTON: Not enough.

19 MR. CAMERON: If you could just wrap
20 it up, please. Thank you.

21 JENNIFER THURSTON: I would like to
22 say that the 14-day extension for the comment
23 period is really not sufficient to prove that you
24 are listening. Give us more time.

25 I understand last night at the meeting in

T43-3
(Cont.)

T43-4

T43-4 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

The PEIS identifies a mitigation measure that prohibits new mining development within 1/4 mile of the Dolores River (see Section 4.6 and Table 4.6-1).

T43-5

T43-5 The public comment period that was to close May 31, 2013 (a 14-day extension from the original end date) was subsequently extended to July 1, 2013.

Thurston, Jennifer, Commenter ID No. T43 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 Montrose a discussion came up, a mention of the
2 story that ran in the New York Times last week and
3 this photograph. And I would just like to put it
4 into the record because this is not an old file
5 photograph, as was stated. I escorted the
6 photographer to the site, and the photo was taken
7 on March 22, 2013. There you go.

8 MR. PLIENESS: Okay. Thank you.

9 JENNIFER THURSTON: No, I'm not
10 done. I have another document where we kind of
11 outlined the specific violations that are in effect
12 on Tract 13. I also want to point out -- I've got
13 another document. It's dated October 24, 2012.
14 It's from the Department of Energy. This is from
15 you guys to the lessee warning them that he must
16 come into compliance with the law. Since then
17 you've had no response from him, and here's an
18 inspection report. I would just like to read it,
19 just an excerpt. It's short. I promise.

20 MR. CAMERON: Well, Jennifer, we
21 have to give other people time.

22 JENNIFER THURSTON: All right. You
23 will find it's a violation of the law and you are
24 not enforcing it.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

T43-6

T43-6

State permits and inspection reports to date reflect the activities of the lessee in addressing existing concerns with Lease Tract 13.

Townsend, Carl, Commenter ID No. E48

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:34:56 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Carl Townsend [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:28 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Carl Townsend

E48-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E48-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E48-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E48-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Townsend, Carl, Commenter ID No. E48 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E48-5 See responses to E48-1 and E48-2.

Turner, Greg, Commenter ID No. L29

Ray Plieness, DOE
Office of Legacy Management
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



April 22, 2013

Re: Draft uranium leasing document

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I wish to thank the Department of Energy for this opportunity for public comment on the important matter of uranium leasing. As a resident of western Colorado, I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to express to you my staunch support for uranium mining and nuclear energy in general, and for Alternative 4 (the preferred alternative), specifically.

The politics of nuclear power are complicated and long-standing; but the reality on the ground is somewhat clearer for those who would benefit from expanded development of our uranium resources. For us it means jobs, income, and prosperous, growing communities. Conversely, terminating the uranium leasing program, as described in some of the other alternatives, would do nothing but prolong unemployment, and dash the hopes of a brighter economic future for many western communities.

An EA completed in 2007 found that the Uranium Leasing Program would pose no significant impacts to the environment. While that was challenged by certain extremist groups, and ultimately thrown out by a friendly court, the current lengthier and more detailed EIS bears out the findings of the original study. It should be remembered that the mines proposed and foreseen in the program are not gigantic open pits – they are smaller, underground mines utilizing technology that both increases efficiency and leaves a smaller imprint. It should not come as any surprise that the wider environmental impacts would be negligible.

Decisions such as this should be based on honest study, scientific analysis, and empirical evidence – not on emotion and political agendas. The groups that are advancing those agendas, and pushing for alternatives that could cancel the leases, seem to not only disregard the hard work and objective scientific efforts that have gone into the NEPA process thus far, but also give absolutely no consideration to the socio-economic factors involved in these decisions, or to how important those factors are to people.

Those of us who live, work, and raise families in western Colorado DO understand how important this issue is, because we are the ones who either benefit from the development of these leases, or suffer from their termination. We understand other things as well. We understand how important the product, uranium, is to the nation's energy supply and security. We understand the need to preserve our natural heritage, and we also understand that development and conservation are not mutually exclusive.

I hope and trust that the DoE understands these things as well, and am encouraged by your selection of Alternative 4 as your preference.

Sincerely,

Greg Turner
P.O. Box 1059
Delta, CO 81416

L29-1

L29-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

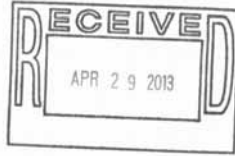
L29-2

L29-2

See response to L29-1.

Unfred, Alisa, Commenter ID No. L14

Ray Plieness
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



April 22, 2013

Ref: Draft Uranium Leasing Programmatic EIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I strongly support Alternative 4, the DoE's preferred alternative, which preserves all of the 31 uranium leasing tracts for potential development.

Uranium is a highly valuable national resource that is found in abundant quantities in parts of the western United States. As a feedstock for clean, sustainable nuclear energy, its value is likely to grow over time. This resource can be mined with very little risk to human and environmental health, especially here in the U.S. Its recovery will provide many high-paying jobs, and residual economic benefits to local areas. And it will also add to the likelihood of American energy independence.

With all of these benefits, it's hard to believe there would be any serious resistance to a comprehensive plan to mine it.

The organized efforts to block these mining leases have nothing to do with environmental protection or human health, neither of which is threatened by any reasonably foreseeable development within the ULP planning area.

The opposition is centered around a corrupted and misguided political agenda to halt mining and all other mineral development on public lands. These groups represent a handful of extremists who do not reflect the views of the overwhelming majority of the people who live in the areas that will directly benefit from the development.

As we have seen with previous litigation, write-in campaigns and the like, they are a very noisy element of society that is not content with letting the process work. That is why they have shown such contempt for your agency's efforts in analyzing the environmental impacts of the program, such as the 2007 EA. I have little doubt that they will display similar contempt for your Preferred Alternative.

But please know that they are just a particularly vocal special interest group, without much in the way of public support, and nothing in the way of facts and science. Your office has done a superb job in developing this PEIS, like the EA before it, and I applaud you for your efforts.

I close with a final appeal to listen to reason, science, and the wishes of the people who live in this area and work in these mines, and adopt your well-thought-out preferred Alternative 4.

Sincerely,

Alisa Unfred
623 Hamlet Street
Grand Junction, CO 81506

L14-1

L14-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

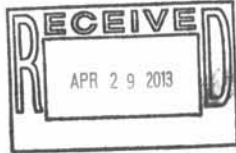
L14-2

L14-2 See response to L14-1.

Unfred, Craig, Commenter ID No. L15

April 23rd, 2013

Ray Plieness, PEIS Document Manager
Draft Uranium Leasing Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021



Dear Mr. Plieness and staff,

As a resident of western Colorado, where a considerable amount of the nation's uranium resources are located, I would like to support the preferred alternative '4' which would continue the uranium leasing program on all 31 tracts.

I subscribe to an "all-the-above" approach to energy development strategy for America, and believe that nuclear power needs to be a major part of any comprehensive energy plan. It is estimated that this region contains hundreds of thousands of tons of uranium, enough that we could begin to decrease our dependence on foreign uranium imports, which currently meet about 92% of America's uranium needs. Mining and processing this resource in America will give jobs to hundreds of American workers and stimulate the local economies. These will not be low-wage jobs either, but high-paying, high skill, and in many cases, high tech jobs. This leasing program presents a dual opportunity for America – greater energy self-sufficiency, and economic growth, at a time when both are sorely needed.

This PEIS is the product of many hours of concerted effort on the part of many people, organizations, and agencies, and has more than adequately satisfied the NEPA requirements. As a matter of fact, considering the nearly identical conclusions, one could say that the 2007 Environmental Assessment, which resulted in a finding of "no significant impact" from the project on the environment, was in retrospect also adequate. Nevertheless, the more detailed and specific EIS covered each and every aspect of the regional environment, and came to the conclusion that the leasing program posed no significant risks.

In light of the EIS's findings, it is very appropriate that the DoE selected alternative 4 as its preferred alternative. That alternative leaves available the opportunities presented to this country by uranium – clean, abundant, affordable energy for long into the future. The other alternatives, unfortunately, offer only to deny these opportunities by terminating all or part of the leasing program. This would be a tragically short-sighted mistake.

Selecting Alternative 4 fits with and advances the DOE's mission to "ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions."

America is a land blessed with an abundance of energy resources, and it is as irresponsible of us to not develop it for the present and future good of our nation and our people, as it would be to do so in an environmentally hazardous manner. This EIS, and the efforts of hundreds in government and private industry ensure that development will take place in the responsible manner demanded by the American people.

Alternative 4 offers the best route for applying an "all-the-above" energy strategy, creating local wealth and job growth, and securing America's energy future. I trust that the Department will continue to realize this, and proceed as planned with the leasing program.

Sincerely,

Craig Unfred
623 Hamlet Street
Grand Junction, CO 81506

L15-1

L15-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

L15-2

L15-2

See response to L15-1.

van West, Rein and Jan, Commenter ID No. E86

From: Rein.van.West
To: mail_lulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 7:25:12 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community. Thank you for taking my comment.

Sincerely,

Rein and Jan van West

Rein van West

E86-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E86-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E86-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E86-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

van West, Rein and Jan, Commenter ID No. E86 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E86-5 See responses to E86-1 and E86-2.

van West, Rein and Jan, Commenter ID No. E112

From: mail_ulpeis
To:
Subject: FW: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 11:12:38 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Rein van West [mailto:_____]@_____
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 5:03 PM
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor"^{xxx} environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Rein and Jan van West
Ridgway, CO

E112-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E112-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E112-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E112-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

van West, Rein and Jan, Commenter ID No. E112 (Cont.)

Rein van West

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E112-5 See responses to E112-1 and E112-2.

Vandersloot, George, Commenter ID No. T30

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 submitted our comments in writing. We are in support
2 of the DOE's position, alternative number 4; I just
3 want to reaffirm that here in person. Didn't know
4 what the comment period would look like.

5 I also would like to point out that in this
6 document that's available to everyone here tonight,
7 that on page S 27, the comments that have been made
8 this evening relative to the price of uranium as well
9 as clean-up and whatnot, those are addressed. And for
10 the record, the economic issues are not within the
11 scope and purpose and need for DOE's action per this
12 document. Just wanted to get that on the record.

13 But the County is definitely in support of
14 alternative number 4. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Commissioner White.
16 Anybody else want to speak?

17 Yes, come on up.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I didn't sign in to the
19 sheet.

20 MR. CAMERON: That's okay, just introduce
21 yourself.

22 GEORGE VANDERSLOOT: My name is George
23 Vandersloot. Some of you know me; a lot of you don't.
24 I'm known as an outdoor person. I'm concerned about
25 our environment. I do a lot of mountain climbing,



T30-1

T30-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Vandersloot, George, Commenter ID No. T30 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

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1 spend a lot of time in the canyons in western
2 Colorado, eastern Utah, places like that.
3 I support alternative 4 here. I think we
4 need to develop our natural resources. I've been on
5 the ground for the last couple of months in the
6 vicinity of tracts 21, 22 and 23. I don't see a
7 problem with mining uranium there.

8 I do have a background in mining and
9 environmental work, and I think alternative 4 would be
10 a good alternative.

11 MR. CAMERON: That's terrific. Thank you,
12 sir.

13 Anybody else want to talk to the Department
14 and the community tonight before we go to informal
15 questions? Okay.

16 And in a minute, I'm going to give the mic
17 back to Ray, see if he has anything to add. But I
18 just want to say that the Department and their experts
19 and anybody that has one of these name tags on are
20 going to be here to answer any questions you have
21 about what you heard tonight, about the process to
22 engage the Department or about what concerns that you
23 might have.

24 And we're doing that over here where these
25 posters are because the posters have a lot of

T30-1
(Cont.)



Vanek, Jolana, Commenter ID No. E114

From: JOLANA VANKOVA
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Comment on Uranium program of DOE in South West Colorado
Date: Friday, June 28, 2013 7:56:44 PM

I am writing to you regarding leases that DOE has in Mesa, Montrose and other other counties, uranium leases.

It has been proven that uranium is dangerous, and as energy source it eventually must be replaced with other - sustainable - materials. -Taking it out of the ground in the mentioned areas would be going back in time, to the time we humans were fairly ignorant about side-effects of uranium. Impact of uranium mining on water, wild life, and humans often many miles away has been well documented. So what now with DOE leases that would have the best benefit for long term ?

What is even more of concern is that majority of the uranium mined these days is NO LONGER for defense of the USA, but purely to allow foreign companies to profit by exporting the uranium product, as they stated in public meetings, even to the enemies of the United States.

My recommendation regarding the mentioned DOE uranium leases is as such:

- 1) Cancel the program outright;
- 2) Cancel the program - AND use the land of the mentioned leases to create areas of SUSTAINABLE renewable energy. Solar would most likely be very compatible , as the areas get great sun majority of the year.

Thank you,

Jolana Vanek
San Miguel County

E114-1

E114-1 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. *See* AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

E114-2

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

E114-2

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Varecha, Debbie, Commenter ID No. E98

From: [Debbie Varecha](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 7:21:48 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

I am totally appalled at your decisions to ruin our area for the money and charge the clean up to me. Stop listening to the corporations and they are not people and listen to the real people...not the tea party or other bought republicans..74 years old and seen this action over and over STOP IT NOW please Debbie

Sincerely,

Debbie Varecha

E98-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E98-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E98-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E98-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Varecha, Debbie, Commenter ID No. E98

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E98-5 See responses to E98-1 and E98-2.

Wallace, Troy, Commenter ID No. T56

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

20

1 that if DOE was to find that they were not going to
2 lease the properties out anymore, there is no
3 reason for them to manage them and they should
4 return them to the public domain so that those
5 minerals could be mined by private individuals on
6 BLM ground. It's multiple purpose and mining is
7 part of that program, so that's all I have. Thank
8 you very much.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Glen. I
10 saw that you looked a little bit confused when I
11 called you down here because I said Glen Miller
12 instead of Glen Williams, and we actually did have
13 a gentleman named Glen Miller at the Grand Junction
14 meeting, but that's Glen Williams. Troy Wallace.

15 TROY WALLACE: I had second thoughts
16 about talking, but working on the newspaper, I get
17 a lot of comments that have to do with junk science
18 from watching all these movies about zombies and
19 other things like that, and I just want to
20 encourage the use of sound science.

21 My uncle and grandfather worked in Uravan
22 and my mother and my grandmother lived there. My
23 grandmother is still living today and she's in her
24 90s and my grandfather died in his 90s. So I
25 really don't think that it limits your life span.



T56-1

T56-1

Comment noted. The evaluations presented in the PEIS utilized methodologies and information reflecting the science that is recommended by regulatory agencies for such evaluations. Based on the results of the PEIS evaluation and with implementation of mitigation measures, DOE believes that its preferred alternative can be conducted in a manner that would be protective of human health and the environment.

Wallace, Troy, Commenter ID No. T56 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

21

1 And as far as I know, I'm not a mutant and she
2 lived in Uravan before I was born. I think there's
3 a lot of junk science that has influenced all these
4 impact statements and everything else.

5 Basically that's what I have to say, is
6 just we need to go by science and not by emotions
7 from other areas.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Troy. Is
9 there anybody else who wants to come up and talk to
10 us?

11 Jane, do you want to reconsider?

12 JANE THOMPSON: My name is Jane
13 Thompson, and I'm the president of the Rimrock
14 Historical Society. We are working very hard right
15 now to preserve the history of the Uravan Mineral
16 Belt, the town of Uravan, and the uranium mining
17 industry, which we are all very proud of.

18 I would also like to say that I'm third
19 generation to live in Uravan. My grandparents
20 moved there when there were no houses. They lived
21 in a tent town. The Rimrockers just leased from
22 the County 17 acres in Uravan that the County just
23 had acquired from Dow Chemical, and we plan to
24 build a museum and an RV park to sustain the
25 museum. And we would appreciate the support and we

T56-1
(Cont.)



Wetzel, Angela, Commenter ID No. L21

Mr. Ray Plieness
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021

April 16th, 2013

Re: Uranium Leasing Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Sir,

Thank you for taking comments on this important PEIS. Uranium, as the feedstock for nuclear energy, represents a very important part of the U.S. and regional economy, and mining it in the study area should be allowed to proceed.

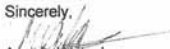
Nuclear energy can and should play a very central role in America's energy future. It is clean, safe and abundant. Any concerns we now may have over the supply of fuel would be put to rest by a well-developed nuclear industry. In addition, any concerns over climate change would also be addressed by the proliferation of domestic nuclear power.

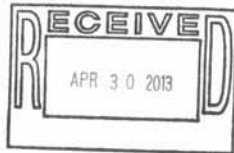
To attain these benefits, we need to harvest our uranium resources. Currently, we as a nation are importing over 90% of our uranium from foreign sources. This is insane, when other nations are in the process of securing their own supplies, and considering that we have an extensive supply right in our own backyard. Uranium should be looked at as a valuable national strategic resource, and therefore the best and highest use of any federal land that contains this resource is its recovery.

The best part is that there need not be a trade-off of other important values. Our justifiable (and in fact overdue) concern for the environment is not diminished by continuing or extending the uranium leasing plans currently in place.

Modern mining practices, combined with reasonable mitigation and protective regulations, help ensure that development and conservation can co-exist. This EIS has properly catalogued the various ecological components and concerns, and described the procedures in place for addressing them.

Considering the importance to the nation of uranium, and the fact that it can be harvested with minimal impact to the environment, I support Alternative 4, and ask that your office do the same. Sincerely,


Angela Wetzel
490 Coronado Ct. Unit D
Clifton, CO 81520



L21-1

L21-1 Comment noted. The "purpose and need" described in Section 1.4 is consistent with the comment made here.

L21-2

L21-2 Based on the results of the PEIS evaluation and with implementation of mitigation measures, DOE believes that its preferred alternative (Alternative 4) can be conducted in a manner that would be protective of human health and the environment.

Wheels, Kim, Commenter ID No. E125

From: Kim Wheels
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: DOE URANIUM LEASING PROGRAM
Date: Monday, July 01, 2013 1:20:57 PM

To: Ray Plieness, PEIS Manager

I'm a resident of Ophir, CO, and recreate in western Montrose County frequently. I have a background in mechanical engineering, which includes work for the nuclear power industry. While I support use of existing, already-mined (and already used) uranium as a transition fuel to a 100% renewable energy world, I am not in support of reopening the mines and mills in western Colorado. My reasons are listed below, but if I was to pick 2 to highlight, they would be:

1 - Western CO does not have sufficient water resources (currently or future forecasted) needed to mine, mill & process uranium as is being proposed. Current water rights are already a source of battle among neighbors. We don't have extra resources, and we can't afford to risk having our existing water sources contaminated.

2 - An increase in dust and pollution from traffic will exacerbate our increasing problems with dust events layering in our snowpack. Springtime dust layers, in an already decreasing volume of water content in our snowpack, increase the speed of snowmelt and decrease snow stability. As our local climate changes with increasing worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, we are already experiencing decreased snowmelt water supply to last us through dry summers.

Please... the DOE must reconsider the environmental impacts of reintroducing uranium mining and milling into western Colorado. Doing so will have detrimental consequences for upcoming decades in which we are already seeing an altered landscape of resources.

Sincerely,
Kim Wheels

Clean, renewable energy sources, and prompt clean-up of this federal uranium legacy provides the realistic and sensible future for western Colorado.

- A recent Gallup Poll shows that American want a stronger emphasis placed on domestic renewable energy production over oil and gas, coal and especially nuclear.
- A recent Colorado poll found that the majority of Coloradans strongly favor (56%) solar energy over nuclear energy (10%).
- Colorado has created aggressive goals to develop a renewable energy standard of 20% by 2020 as well as establishing the state as a national leader in this sector and developing up to 600,000 clean-energy jobs.
- The potential for renewable energy development, specifically solar, is high in the ULP.
- The uranium leases in the ULP are ideal for brownfield renewable energy development, providing clean domestic energy and jobs to the region.

The US reserve uranium should be managed for future use in the US, not short term exploitation by foreign interests

- The PEIS does not reveal that US uranium would be mined and sent to Canadian-controlled mills for

E125-1 Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation (including potential impacts to water resources and quality) in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

E125-2 A discussion regarding dust layering in snowpacks has been added in the PEIS (see Section 3.1)

E125-1

E125-3 The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of solar energy or renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for such purposes is not excluded by the ULP Program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies, including many based on renewable sources.

E125-2

E125-4 The possibility that uranium or uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to being exported does not undermine the PEIS's stated purpose and need, and does not require that the PEIS's scope be expanded to analyze the export of uranium or uranium ore. Any export of domestic uranium or uranium ore from any source within the United States, including the ULP lease tracts, is strictly regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the terms of the AEA and the NRC regulations, which impose requirements that must be satisfied before the NRC will grant a license to export any domestic uranium or uranium ore. See AEA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2099, 2151-2160d; NRC regulations, 10 C.F.R. §§ 110.19-110.46. For example, 42 U.S.C. § 2099 forbids the NRC from licensing any person to export from the United States any uranium ore, or other source material, if the issuance of such a license "would be inimical to the common defense and security" or the health and safety of the public; 42 U.S.C. § 2155 gives the Executive Branch the authority to veto any export of uranium ore. Many more specific requirements are imposed in the other above-cited provisions of the AEA and the NRC regulations.

E125-3

Therefore, DOE's proposed action in the PEIS does not address uranium ore exports, over which the NRC, not DOE, has authority; and the scope of analysis in the PEIS does not analyze the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export.

In addition, the possibility that uranium ore from the ULP may be subject to export, after a prospective exporter goes through the process of applying for and receiving the necessary permission from the NRC, does not undermine the stated purpose and need for agency action: to support the AEA provisions which authorized and directed DOE to develop a supply of domestic uranium, and to issue leases or permits for prospecting, exploration, mining, or removal of deposits of uranium ore in lands belonging to the United States to the extent DOE deems necessary to effectuate the provisions of the AEA (42 U.S.C. §§ 2096-2097). An active ULP program will be more successful in meeting that need than would an inactive program.

E125-4

With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed

Wheels, Kim, Commenter ID No. E125 (Cont.)

export to Canada, Korea, China.

- Taxpayers are already paying for DOE to manage and store billions of dollars worth of already mined uranium stockpiles.
- Tell DOE that until it cleans up the mess it made during the Cold War, further uranium mining should not be allowed.
- Should the US actually need these uranium reserves in the future, the most secure long term storage solution is for it to remain in the ground.
- The PEIS ignored dismal conditions at these mines, which reveal that remediation and contamination clean up should be an immediate priority.

The DOE must investigate, disclose, and evaluate actual conditions at each of uranium mines and lease tracts.

- "Remediation" claims in the PEIS are based on outdated information and assumptions as opposed to actual field analysis.
- Remediation would provide jobs now. Uranium extraction is uncertain dependent on the price/demand of uranium going up considerably.
- Some of these sites are in violation of Clean Water Act standards, are contaminating the Dolores River and should be clean up immediately.

DOE did not analyze an alternative that would reduce the number of leases.

- There is no consideration made to protect endangered or threatened species existing in the ULP.
- There is no consideration made for withdrawing the sites adjacent to the Dolores River to prevent water quality impacts.
- The recent State of the Rockies poll found that the majority of Coloradons feel that environmentally sensitive places should be protected from energy development.

The PEIS fails to adequately address climate change impacts.

- There is only superficial analysis of water quantity impacts from increased mining and milling in the region.
- The consequences of allocating an increasingly scarce water supply to mining operations intended to produce uranium for foreign demand is not considered.
- Air quality analysis fails to address a significant increase in dust creation from mining and milling activity and dispersion to downwind communities.

The ULP claims fall within the Dolores River Corridor, one of the iconic tributaries of the Colorado River. Impacts to this landscape and the habitat it provides for hundreds of species and recreation opportunities were not sufficiently considered.

- A cluster of the claims falls directly on the Dolores River and threatens the river daily due to lack of clean up.
- The Dolores Corridor provides habitat for Gunnison sage grouse, big horn sheep, endangered Colorado River fish and threatened river otter among others. Threats to these species were not adequately considered.
- We have the opportunity to preserve the Dolores River Basin for future generations as a natural gem of the American West. National and international recognition of this treasure will bring an increase in tourism and recreation dollars and provide long-term sustainable economy for the region. **We must think long term before we destroy sustainable development for short-term economic gain that will line the pockets of those outside the communities.**

The DOE must reconsider the PEIS using real field analysis of current site conditions, economic analysis of remediation and reuse of the sites vs re leasing and eventual taxpayer clean up and USFWS analysis of wildlife impacts

E125-4
(Cont.)

E125-5

E125-6

E125-7

E125-8

E125-9

E125-5 The evaluations conducted for the PEIS used site-specific information (see Section 1.3 for a summary of this information). DOE considers the information adequate to support the alternatives evaluated and for making any decisions relative to these alternatives. Although site-specific information for future mines will not be available until the lessees submit specific mine plans, information available from past mining activities such as the understanding on cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, waste rock and ore characteristics, and transportation practices and routes is sufficient for supporting the analyses of potential impacts from future mining activities for the five alternatives.

E125-5 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

E125-6 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives.

E125-6 As discussed in Section 4.3.6.1 and Table 4.6-1 (see M-4), impacts on the Dolores River and other jurisdictional streams within lease tracts would not likely be directly affected because mines would be required to be located at a distance from these streams (e.g., 1,300 ft [0.25 mi]). A Biological Assessment (BA) has been prepared for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding potential impacts of the ULP on species listed under the ESA (including the Colorado River endangered fish species). A Biological Opinion (BO) was issued by the USFWS in August 2013. PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

E125-7 Climate change was evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1, 4.4.1, and 4.5.1) in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) generated by the ULP proposed action for the five alternatives, respectively. The results indicate that the ULP proposed action contributes a very small percentage to both Colorado, and U.S. GHG generated (up to 0.03% and 0.0005%, respectively). U.S. GHG emissions account for about one-fifth of global GHG emissions, and GHG emissions from ULP proposed action are up to about 0.0001%. The amount of GHG generated is generally used as a measure of the potential impacts on climate change. In contrast, ULP operations (followed by power generations at nuclear power plants) would displace considerable amounts of criteria and toxic air pollutants, and GHG emissions that would otherwise be released from fossil power plants. Accordingly, ULP operations would contribute to more positive impacts than adverse impacts on climate change. The text in the PEIS has been revised (see the same sections mentioned previously) to explain further how potential impacts from climate change were analyzed for the PEIS and what the results mean.

E125-8 The PEIS acknowledges the potential for impact to the Dolores, San Miguel, and Colorado Rivers and the aquatic biota inhabiting those rivers. Measures to minimize potential impacts from uranium mining in the ULP lease tracts are provided in Table 4.6-1. These measures include measures to avoid and minimize impacts to waterbodies and aquatic habitats for aquatic biota (see measures M-4 and M-7). As discussed in Section 4.3.6.1 and Table 4.6-1 (see M-4), impacts on the Dolores River and other jurisdictional streams within lease tracts would not likely be directly affected because mines would be required to be located at a

Wheels, Kim, Commenter ID No. E125 (Cont.)

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Kim Wheels

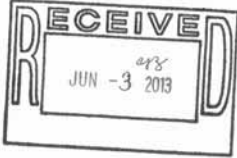
distance from these streams (e.g., 1,300 ft [0.25 mi]). A Biological Assessment (BA) has been prepared for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A Biological Opinion was issued by the USFWS in August of 2013. See Section 6 and Appendix E.

Information on the desert bighorn sheep is provided in Section 3.6.2.3 of the PEIS. As evident from Table 3.6-15 in that section, the ULP lease tracts encompass only a small portion of the desert bighorn sheep activity areas within the three-county ULP study area. Potential impacts on bighorn sheep are addressed in Section 4.3.6.2 of the PEIS. DOE did consult with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) regarding the desert bighorn sheep and other sensitive species during the preparation of the PEIS. Since issuing the Draft PEIS, the DOE has become aware that the river otter is a state threatened species that could occur in the Dolores River in or near the lease tracts. Evaluation of this species was added to the Final PEIS. Exclusion buffers from the Dolores River and sage grouse habitats, as well as desert bighorn sheep habitat protection or offsite habitat enhancement, may also be conditions of permits and lease requirements for mine sites.

E125-9 The PEIS evaluation has incorporated site-specific information available and has analyzed current conditions adequately (see Section 1.3 and Chapter 3). The economic study suggested is outside the PEIS scope and does not meet the purpose and need described in Section 1.4. DOE has been in consultation with the USFWS and has included as Appendix E in this Final PEIS - the biological assessment (BA) submitted by DOE to the USFWS and the biological opinion (BO) received from the USFWS.

White, Carolyn, Commenter ID No. L40

Carolyn White
1041 Ouray Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501



May 28, 2013

Ray Pleiness, PEIS Manager
Office of Legacy Management
US DOE
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021
ulpeis@anl.gov

Dear Mr. Pleiness

I am concerned about the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on uranium leasing in Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel counties. Before any action is taken to allow more land in western Colorado being made available for uranium development, we need to slow down and figure out how we can work with what we have rather than open up more public lands to speculative mining.

More than other states, Colorado has experience with uranium mining and our lands have suffered from the waste and radioactive contamination left behind. Surely we should start with reclamation of those lands before more are leased out. We can reclaim old mines and in doing so also provide local jobs.

The Western Slope attracts people from all over the States and other countries with its beautiful lands and recreational opportunities. Uranium mining is not compatible with those.

We need a clean environment for a healthy community and strong economy. But that cannot be from uranium mining. Let's keep it clean; preserve our public lands.

Carolyn White

L40-1

L40-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Wickham, Roger, Commenter ID No. L42

National Parks Conservation Association
777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

June 6, 2013

Attention: Theresa Pierno
Acting President

LETTER OF PROTEST TO LAND
LEASING IN WESTERN CO FOR
OIL & GAS OR URANIUM MINING

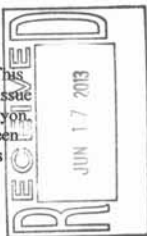
Dear Ms Pierno

Please find enclosed my check for a 100 dollar contribution to protect parks from Fracking. Also enclosed is my signed petition to President Barack Obama.

I have read your letter in great detail and find you are fighting the same battle as many Americans are fighting across the United States right now. In the western portion of Colorado there are large amounts of gas available by using Fracking. Fracking requires large amounts of water to do this particular operation. All of the Western Colorado water ways (the Gunnison, San Juan, San Miguel, Deloris and the Green to name a few) flow into the Colorado River. Any mishaps in the Oil and Gas Companies operation could feed into the Colorado. This in turn could cause problems in Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, Lake Mead and irrigation and clean drinking water down river. The Colorado touches the lives of millions of people.

We have a Film Festival in Telluride Colorado once a year. Each year there is a theme. This year it was centered on what the Oil and Gas Companies are doing to our environment. One thing that we learned was when drilling these deep wells that to protect the upper portions of the well and domestic water they use cement to surround the drilling hole. It was stated that 1 in 10 wells the cement protection fail in the early stages of operation. In many of the fields in Western Colorado there are areas where up to 1800 wells are already drilled with 48,000 drilled wells in the state. This could mean 180 to 4,800 wells may have a problem and could be leaking toxic materials into the domestic water supply and the waterways that feed into the Colorado. There are three documentaries that I would like to suggest you obtain and watch. They are Gasland 1 and 2 by Josh Fox and Bidder 70. All three will show on PBS in the near future. These documentaries are filled with information that could be used in your fight against Fracking. Also enclosed is an article from our local news paper (The Daily Planet) one of the ways documentary film makers, environmentalist, scientist, and just plain Americans are doing to fight Fracking. It is very difficult when the federal agencies and state agencies are making it so easy for the Oil and Gas Companies to come into a neighborhood and let them do just about anything they want.

In our local area we are also fighting a Uranium issue. A Canadian company has obtained the rights to put in a uranium processing plant 50 miles west of Telluride. This company as reported will move the yellow cake to Canada for resale. I am sure this issue came up in your fight to keep the Russian processing plant away from the Grand Canyon. You were able to obtain relief from this processing plant. We in our area have not been so fortunate. Once again this Canadian processing plant will be very near the Deloris



L42-1

L42-1

The scope of the PEIS is uranium mining on the ULP lease tracts. However, oil and gas activities within the 50-mile region of influence were addressed in the cumulative impacts analysis discussed in Section 4.7 of the PEIS. Additional information on BLM's oil and gas leases has been added to this document.

L42-2

L42-2

Potential impacts to water resources are evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.4, 4.2.4, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, and 4.5.4). See also discussion in Section I.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts.

The concern about water quality due to the proximity to the Dolores River and its tributary has been considered. One of the mitigation measures to assure protection of surface water body from contamination and sedimentation was the inclusion of a mitigation measure to restrict activities within 1/4 mile of perennial streams (Table 4.6-1).

The proposed action would be implemented in accordance with Federal, state, and local requirements including those for the protection of water quality.

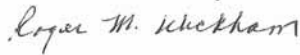
Wickham, Roger, Commenter ID No. L42 (Cont.)

River which flows into the Colorado. This could be another potential affecting the National Parks. We may have lost the battle on the processing plant. Our county is now fighting the DOE and BLM protectors to stop leasing BLM land for uranium mining. It seems without a steady flow of uranium into the processing plant it will be difficult to make the processing plant financially viable. Attached is an article from our local newspaper (The Daily Planet) about what our County is trying to do on the leasing issue. Presently I am unaware of any official coordinated plan between the County of San Miguel, the Town of Telluride and the Town of Mountain Village to stop the Fracking and Uranium leases in our area.

Having been in the airline industry for over 30 years it is not if there is going to be an emergency it is only when. I personally believe that there will be major environmental repercussions either with oil and gas or uranium spreading through our National Parks into local water supplies and water users down river and across the United States. The Colorado not only provides recreation and clean water it is a major supplier of water to Phoenix and also the California Imperial Valley. The Colorado provides water and irrigation water to millions of people. So what happens if it is corrupted or more likely what will happen when it is corrupted? Who do these millions of people go to for relief?

If NPCA is interested in stopping Fracking and Uranium mining and processing in Western Colorado, please let me know or advise our County Commissioner, Joan May.

Sincerely



Roger M. Wickham
PO Box 532
Placerville, CO 81430
rmwickham@hotmail.com

C.C.

Joan May, San Miguel Country Commissioner.
333 W Colorado Ave.
Telluride, CO. 81435

BLM Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield ST
Lakewood, CO. 80215

Mr. Raymond Plieness,
ULP PEIS Document Manager
Office of Legacy Management,
US Department of Energy,
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO. 80021

National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC. 20240

L42-2
(Cont.)

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T22

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

26

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Steven.

2 Glen? Glen Williams? And then we'll go to
3 Betty.

4 GLEN WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'm Glen Williams, and ←
5 I work for Cotter Corporation in Nucla; I've been over
6 there for 30-plus years. And the last couple of
7 years, I've been heavily involved in doing permit
8 amendments for all of our mines that we have. We've
9 got eight of the mines that they have listed right now
10 that have mines on them.

11 And I know with the way the regs in this
12 state are right now, I've been dealing with these
13 permits for the last two years trying to get the
14 amendments, and all the things you have to satisfy as
15 far as surface water quality, ground water quality,
16 any air emissions they're concerned about, all of
17 that, it's nothing like the old days back in the '70s
18 or so when people just used to set up a compressor and
19 start drilling and start mining.

20 You have to meet a whole list of criteria to
21 satisfy just to get your permit so you can start
22 breaking ground.

23 And so personally, I'm all for either
24 alternative 3, 4 or 5. But I think 4 or 5 are the
25 best, personally.

T22-1

T22-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T22 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-23-2013

27

1 And I do have an issue with just one of the
2 things I saw up there about the four species of fish
3 that potentially will be impacted. I believe there's
4 only four lease tracts, probably, right above the San
5 Miguel in Uravan that might have potential to impact
6 those fish.

7 But again, with the criteria we have to deal
8 with with the State just to get that mine permit,
9 surface water quality and ground water quality are big
10 issues for them. And I really don't expect that there
11 will be any problem with any of those fish that you
12 guys have listed in there that you're thinking about.

13 So again, I'm all for the alternative 4, 5
14 or 3. So thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Glen.

16 And Betty?

17 BETTY OGLESBY: Thank you. I'm Betty
18 Oglesby, and I lived in this area from '70 to '92.
19 Actually, I worked for Glen Williams back in the late
20 '70s and early '80s. So I do approve this, I support
21 it. I don't think there's a negative impact here; I
22 don't think there is a negative air quality impact.

23 I lived there, I raised my kids there, I
24 worked for the mine, I've been there. I've lived it.
25 And I do not believe there's an impact to the fish in

T22-2

T22-2

PEIS text has been revised consistent with the BA and BO, see Appendix E and Section 4.3.6.4.

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T46

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

65

1 if that storm cell would have released its energy
2 just a little west, the Calhoun nuclear power plant
3 would have been inundated. The waters would have
4 gone over the top of that inflatable berm.

5 The Cooper station may have been 3 feet
6 below the floodwaters if that had happened. So
7 what do we do with the nuclear industry, with
8 something that is so toxic? We've got nuclear
9 weapons and we have got nuclear disaster lurking.

10 MR. CAMERON: I'm going to have to
11 ask you to wrap up.

12 DAVID GLYNN: I will wrap it up.

13 So my point is this: You've got all of
14 this beautiful farmland. What would have happened
15 if we would have had that super cell release its
16 energy just a little west and we would have
17 possibly, potentially contaminated thousands of
18 miles of the best farmland in the world. We are
19 playing Russian roulette with the nuclear industry.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, David.
21 Glen Williams, please, and then we'll go to Hilary
22 Cooper.

23 GLEN WILLIAMS: My name is Glen
24 Williams. I'm a resident of San Miguel County for
25 the last 30-plus years in the Norwood area. I have



T46-1

T46-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T46 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

66

1 got a lot of history in mining, and I know for a
2 fact that the way the permitting goes these days
3 with the State of Colorado to obtain a mine permit,
4 there is extensive bonding requirements that the
5 State has to go through and they make you put up
6 the money to cover any reclamation that might be
7 associated with the mining operation.

8 If there are any wet mines -- which most
9 of these DOE leases, I believe, are dry -- the
10 state, in your permitting process, will make you do
11 monitor wells to check the groundwater and the area
12 around the mining operation to see if there's going
13 to be any contamination, unlike way in the past
14 which they never did before. And the standards for
15 reclamation are enforced by the DRMS, the Division
16 of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. An operator has
17 to submit a mine plan to DOE if you are operating
18 on a DOE lease, but that mine plan also has to be
19 consistent in your permitting process with the
20 state.

21 Another thing is the -- I heard earlier
22 something about these BLM lands shouldn't be leased
23 if we are not getting any royalties off them. I
24 can tell you for a fact that there are significant
25 royalties paid on these leases for the minerals

T46-1
(Cont.)

T46-2

T46-2

Comment noted. As noted by the commenter, reclamation at all legacy mine sites under DOE's oversight has been completed.

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T46 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

67

1 produced on them, both the uranium and vanadium.
2 Another item that I just remember hearing
3 was how DOE should reclaim the legacy mining sites,
4 and I believe that almost all of the legacy mining
5 sites on the DOE lease tracts have been reclaimed.
6 There may be a lot of sites that are on BLM lands
7 which are not covered by this leasing program, but
8 that's under the auspice of the State of Colorado
9 to reclaim those at this point, because those are
10 historic mining operations that were done before
11 they had the reclamation permits that they have
12 now.

13 The last thing I would like to cover is
14 that from my perspective, being associated with
15 mining for an extensive period of time, miners
16 don't have any problem with people hunting,
17 fishing, hiking, riding bikes in the area, you
18 know, on these public lands that are multiple
19 purpose. And I'm constantly amazed that people who
20 base their livelihood on recreation, like people in
21 this area do, they insist or seem to want to insist
22 that there be nothing else other than recreation
23 where they want to play.

24 To me, it's just an unreasonable
25 requirement because those lands are multiple

T46-2
(Cont.)

T46-3

T46-3

Comment noted.

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T46 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

68

1 purpose. They were intended for use by the public.
2 That use being natural resource development and
3 production. Back in the day, recreation really
4 wasn't that much of a consideration, but they are
5 there for recreation, for hiking, hunting, fishing,
6 et cetera. And I know the miners, they don't have
7 a problem with the hunting and fishing and bike
8 riding.

9 So it just amazes me that the
10 recreationists, who want to come in every once in a
11 while, insist that there be no other disturbance so
12 they can enjoy their pristine playgrounds, which
13 these grounds aren't pristine. They're just BLM
14 grounds that are intended for multiple purpose.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.
17 And next we're going to hear from Hilary Cooper.

18 HILARY COOPER: My name is Hilary
19 Cooper. I'm the director of Sheep Mountain
20 Alliance and we are submitting extensive comments
21 as well, so I will keep my comments short.

22 I want to say thank you very much to all
23 the very well-articulated comments that have been
24 stated tonight. Wow. You guys are all very well
25 informed and passionate about this area. And I

T46-3
(Cont.)

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T55

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

19

1 and how well they were taken care of.

2 So with that, I support Alternative 4
3 with all these others. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John.

5 We're going to go to Glen Miller next and then Troy
6 Wallace.

7 GLEN WILLIAMS: My name is Glen
8 Williams with Cotter Corporation out of Nucla. I'm
9 a big proponent of responsible natural resource
10 development. And I believe that all these lease
11 tracts that the DOE has, we should try to develop
12 them and produce the ores we can responsibly
13 produce from them as much as we can.

14 The program has been in place for a long
15 time. I believe it's effective. I believe it's
16 employed quite a few people, paid a lot of
17 royalties to DOE, and I just feel that with the way
18 the mine permitting is going these days, bonds are
19 substantial and they cover everything I have seen
20 that needs to be covered with any of the
21 reclamation activities that are required on these
22 mines these days. And I feel that it's a good way
23 to go. It will help the area.

24 The one alternative that I would not
25 recommend is the Alternative 1. It seems to me



T55-1

T55-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

T55-2

T55-2

See response to T55-1.

Williams, Glen, Commenter ID No. T55 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-25-2013

20

1 that if DOE was to find that they were not going to
2 lease the properties out anymore, there is no
3 reason for them to manage them and they should
4 return them to the public domain so that those
5 minerals could be mined by private individuals on
6 BLM ground. It's multiple purpose and mining is
7 part of that program, so that's all I have. Thank
8 you very much.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Glen. I
10 saw that you looked a little bit confused when I
11 called you down here because I said Glen Miller
12 instead of Glen Williams, and we actually did have
13 a gentleman named Glen Miller at the Grand Junction
14 meeting, but that's Glen Williams. Troy Wallace.

15 TROY WALLACE: I had second thoughts
16 about talking, but working on the newspaper, I get
17 a lot of comments that have to do with junk science
18 from watching all these movies about zombies and
19 other things like that, and I just want to
20 encourage the use of sound science.

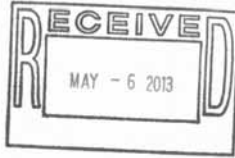
21 My uncle and grandfather worked in Uravan
22 and my mother and my grandmother lived there. My
23 grandmother is still living today and she's in her
24 90s and my grandfather died in his 90s. So I
25 really don't think that it limits your life span.

T55-2
(Cont.)



Wilson, Kylvynn, Commenter ID No. L30

April 23, 2013



Attn: Ray Plieness
Office of Legacy Management
U.S. Department of Energy
11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
Westminster, CO 80021
E-mail: ulpeis@anl.gov

Re: Draft Uranium Leasing Program EIS

Dear Mr. Plieness,

I am very supportive of the Department of Energy's Preferred Alternative in this PEIS, Alternative 4, and of the Uranium Leasing Program in general.

Alternative 4 retains all of the current lease tracts in the ULP, allowing potential mining of this resource. The western U.S. contains some of the most highly graded and prolific deposits of uranium in the world, and it is in our national interest to recover these resources.

The other alternatives, disappointingly, for the most part terminate the leasing program, with little thought attached to the consequences for the regional economy, national energy policy, or trade concerns. At the present time, the U.S. only gets about 8% of its uranium domestically – there is no logical reason for this, with such an abundant source here at home, and with an available workforce ready and hoping to be able to extract it.

The end product also needs to be considered. The uranium that is mined from this program will go towards expanding the production of carbon-free nuclear power, which could easily supply a far greater percentage of our electricity than it does currently. This is a far more economical approach than focusing on the much more expensive solar and wind technologies. As admirable as these alternatives are, they will only ever make up a tiny fraction of the overall electrical supply, due to the facts that they are interruptible and require large amounts of land. Nuclear is a much wiser short-and long-term solution.

As such, Alternative 4 is the most prudent and sound alternative available, and I would like to recommend that your agency adopt it going forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kylvynn Wilson".

Kylvynn Wilson

53593 Banner Road
Olathe, CO 81425

L30-1

L30-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the DPEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative.

L30-2

L30-2

See response to L30-1.

Wilson, Mary Lou, Commenter ID No. L31



Ray Plienness, PEIS Document Manager
 Office of Legacy Management
 U.S. Department of Energy
 11025 Dover Street, Suite 1000
 Westminster, CO 80021
 E-mail: ulpeis@anl.gov

April 19, 2013

Re: Draft Uranium Leasing PEIS

Dear Mr. Plienness,

I support the Department of Energy’s preferred alternative, Alternative 4, which would retain all 31 lease tracts for potential development of uranium resources. The draft EIS has done a thorough and commendable job of analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the Uranium Leasing Plan, to include analysis of water and air quality, wildlife habitat, endangered species, cumulative effects of economic activity, and other factors. The conclusion is that today’s responsible and modern mining technologies and practices will have very little adverse effect on these important environmental elements.

L31-1

L31-1

Comment noted. DOE considered all comments received on the PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE’s preferred alternative.

This mining plan is important for the economic and environmental security of the United States.

Our supply of recoverable uranium could support a much faster and more widespread development of nuclear energy in this county. Nuclear energy represents a safe, environmentally benign, and abundant source of domestic electrical generation that should form a major component of any national energy plan.

We are not Russia or Japan – Americans have the technology, skill, and experience to be able to develop the nuclear industry in a manner that is safer for both humans and the environment than any other county on earth.

L31-2

L31-2

See response to L31-1.

This industry can and should be allowed to develop, and should not have to rely on foreign sources of uranium – likely mined under far less environmentally sensitive circumstances – when we have such a wealth of the resource right here.

In addition to contributing to America’s national energy needs, this leasing program will have many local benefits as well, including the creation of many good-paying jobs that will bolster the local, regional, and state economies.

L31-3

L31-3

See response to L31-1.

The revenue generated from the mines, and from the wider tax base created by the direct and indirect job growth, will have a positive effect on local, state and even federal government coffers as well. The leasing plan will provide the economic base to allow for local community

Wilson, Mary Lou, Commenter ID No. L31 (Cont.)

development, both private and public, to occur and make our regions even better places to live and raise families.

All of these benefits come with very few environmental costs – as the documents point out, the proposed mitigation policies, modern mining technologies, and extensive regulatory oversight will ensure that our other natural resources are properly conserved and cared for.

This is an extremely beneficial program that is occurring in areas with deep cultural, historic, and economic ties to mining. The only reason to oppose the retention of these leases would be to advance an extreme anti-development agenda, held to by a handful of radical activists.

It would be a shame to see obstructivist tactics succeed in manipulating the process into shutting down such worthy projects that will bring so many benefits to so many.

In closing, I again wish to state that I unequivocally support Alternative 4, which will continue the leasing plan for all 31 tracts, and help provide economic and energy security for our region and our nation.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Wilson
917 Main Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501

L31-3
(Cont.)

L31-3
(Cont.)

Wizer, Joyce, Commenter ID No. E19

From: Joyce Wizer
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:51:24 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a Clean Alternative, one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines, so create jobs by cleaning-up old sites before making new legacies of pollution. Also, DOE should elevate solar energy above dangerous uranium within the scope of its ULP. Solar is a viable energy alternative that does not risk public health or environmental quality, and western Colorado is renowned for its potential.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Joyce Wizer

E19-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E19-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E19-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E19-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Wizer, Joyce, Commenter ID No. E19 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E19-5 See responses to E19-1 and E19-2.

Wizer, Joyce, Commenter ID No. E20

From: Joyce Wizer
To: mail_ulp@peis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 7:54:36 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

It is not practical to mine uranium when we have no safe way to store radioactive waste. Please leave the uranium in place and pursue safer, renewable, sources of energy.

Sincerely,
Joyce Wizer
Rifle, Colorado

E20-1

E20-1

The majority of the waste generated from uranium mining is in the form of waste rock which contains radioactivity at levels similar to what is typically in the area (i.e., background), as the waste rocks would be primarily overburden material that needs to be removed in order to get to the ore deposits. The waste rock (kept as a pile or piles) would remain on the mine site, be contoured, provided with an adequate thickness of top cover material, and revegetated. Waste that contains low-level radioactivity would either be taken to the mill for proper disposition and/or taken to a licensed low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. Wastes that are generally trash or garbage (e.g., from lunch rooms or packaging material) would be taken to a local landfill for disposal.

The evaluation of the use of the land for development of renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

Wong, Choi, Commenter ID No. T15

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 But not necessarily poison. What good is that doing
2 us? Why don't we clean up the poison first and then
3 have a big party?

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Penny. And next
5 we're going to hear from, is it Pier?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm not going to...

7 MR. CAMERON: No? Okay.

8 Is there anybody else that wants to comment
9 that had not signed up yet? Anybody out here that
10 wants to make a comment to us?

11 Yes. Can you come up?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

13 MR. CAMERON: And just introduce yourself to
14 us, please.

15 CHOI WONG: Hi, my name is Choi Wong, I'm a
16 nursing student from Colorado Mesa University. I am
17 not prepared for this speech. I am from China. I
18 moved here seven years ago, because I think Colorado
19 is a real pretty place, and all the residents here are
20 really nice.

21 And recently my classmate and I have done
22 research, a project on the uranium mining in Paradox,
23 Colorado. And I researched Energy Fuels as my
24 company, and I want to understand how the company
25 impacts the environment.



T15-1

T15-1

Uranium mining conducted by Energy Fuels is not within the scope of the PEIS. Potential socioeconomics and human health impacts from the proposed action for the ULP lease tracts are presented in Chapter 4 of the PEIS. The largest number of direct and indirect jobs that could be generated during mine operations would be about 253 and 152, respectively. Potential human health impacts evaluations indicated that potential risk from living about 2500 meters away from a mine location would be 1 in 100,000 per year of exposure in addition to the 3 in 10,000 per year from exposure to background sources of radiation (i.e., potential risk would potentially be 0.00031 instead of 0.00030).

Wong, Choi, Commenter ID No. T15 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 And after looking at the Energy Fuels home
2 page, I understand that they will bring jobs to
3 Colorado. And I really appreciate that, because they
4 want to help us out when economy is really bad.

5 But at the same time, it's really important
6 for us to keep in mind the long-term effect of the
7 uranium mining.

8 The jobs will bring money to the economy for
9 a short term, but it's really important for us to
10 think about will this money help the residents of
11 Colorado to pay for their healthcare causes when they
12 are diagnosed with cancer or anything related to the
13 mining.

14 And I just thought that is important for us
15 to think about the short-term economy impact compared
16 to a long-term healthcare impact.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

18 Does anybody else want to make a comment?
19 And let's go to you first; come up and introduce
20 yourself, please.

21 And then we'll go to you.

22 JODIE MCTAVISH: My name is Jodie McTavish,
23 and I worked at the Department of Energy as support
24 services in the Laboratory. And we spent years
25 analyzing the samples and dealing with the remediation

T15-1
(Cont.)



Wood, Linda, Commenter ID No. E100

From: Linda Wood
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 9:29:44 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Linda Wood

E100-1

E100-2

E100-3

E100-4

E100-5

E100-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E100-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E100-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E100-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Wood, Linda, Commenter ID No. E100 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E100-5 See responses to E100-1 and E100-2.

Woodward, Joan, Commenter ID No. T17

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 long-term health effects that affect people and create
2 cancer and all the other health issues that are
3 related to this industry.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jodie.

5 And yes, ma'am, would you join us up here? ←

6 JOAN WOODWARD: Good evening. I hadn't
7 planned to speak tonight, partly because I don't have
8 much of a voice. So I'll make this very brief.

9 The individual who's sitting with the
10 environmental engineer, Energy Fuels, I believe was
11 the name, he said there were two reasons, as I recall,
12 why the project should go forward: One was the need
13 for jobs and the other was a need for more energy
14 production.

15 In terms of the need for energy production
16 domestically, my understanding is we don't need
17 uranium; we have more than enough other resources.
18 The natural gas industry is doing very well. We don't
19 need uranium here with all of the consequences.

20 In terms of the jobs, I don't think there
21 are that many jobs that would actually be generated at
22 this point in opening up some of these leases. I also
23 think we could put those people to work much better in
24 terms of alternative energy rather than uranium.

25 I am concerned as well about water -- other

T17-1

T17-1 With regard to concerns that there is already a stockpile of uranium in the U.S. for domestic use, the development of a domestic uranium supply, as authorized and directed by Congress in the AEA, enables DOE to support future demand that is uncertain at the present time, whatever its exact level may turn out to be in the future.

The consideration of alternative energy development on the ULP lease tracts is outside the scope of the PEIS.

T17-2

T17-2 Potential impacts to water resources are evaluated in the PEIS (see Sections 4.1.4, 4.2.4, 4.3.4, 4.4.4, and 4.5.4). See also discussion in I.3.2 for a summary of potential impacts.

The concern on water quality due to the proximity to the Dolores River and its tributary has been considered. One of mitigation measures to assure protection of surface water body from contamination and sedimentation was the inclusion of a mitigation measure to restrict activities within ¼ mile of perennial streams (Table 4.6-1).

The proposed action would be implemented in accordance with Federal, state, and local requirements including those for the protection of water quality.

Woodward, Joan, Commenter ID No. T17 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: UUP PEIS Public Hearings 04-22-2013

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1 people have commented on that -- both the extraction
2 of water for processing and the pollution of water.
3 It doesn't take much at all, so I'm very concerned
4 about that.

T17-2
(Cont.)

5 Taxpayers always seem to end up footing the
6 bill for the nuclear industry. I don't think you can
7 cite any mine or mill or plant that the taxpayers
8 didn't have to come up with the money to pay for an
9 awful lot of it.

T17-3

T17-3

For the lease tract operations that are currently covered by reclamation bonds, the bonds were calculated by DOE based on site-specific conditions and deemed sufficient to reclaim those conditions in coordination with CDRMS.

10 I agree with Eric that a very substantial
11 bond would absolutely have to be a requirement before
12 we can even think about doing this.

13 Finally, I don't understand why we're even
14 talking about leasing at this point when we have not
15 accomplished the reclamation on any of these sites.
16 There has been virtually nothing done on a lot of
17 these sites in terms of soil and waters. So until we
18 can have it proven to us this is in good faith, and
19 can, in fact, be done safely, we shouldn't be
20 considering new leases. Thank you.

T17-4

T17-4

Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are not under the ULP and not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim. DOE analyzed this alternative as part of its range of reasonable alternatives in the PEIS.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

22 Do we have any final comments? Okay. Well,
23 thank you all. And I think Ray would like to say a
24 few words in closing to all of you. And the
25 Department and experts are going to be here if you

Yoho-Wikse, Nicholas, Commenter ID No. T52

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 there anymore.

2 So I just wanted to say: You need to
3 consider a cradle-to-grave -- no pun intended --
4 cumulative impact beyond this small region. You
5 need to consider the ramifications of the entire
6 industry. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: We have one more
8 gentleman up there. Please introduce yourself,
9 sir.

10 NICHOLAS YOHO-WIKSE: Hello. My
11 name is Nicholas Yoho-Wikse. I grew up near the
12 Nevada test site in Las Vegas and also in
13 California. I've lived in this area quite a few
14 years. I have worked at La Cocina restaurant here
15 and with a green building firm, Steeprock Joinery,
16 for several years and with the Galloping Goose and
17 volunteering for the adaptive ski program for four
18 or five years. I have some humble residences here
19 as well as in other states and countries.

20 I'm here representing basically interests
21 of a few of my own companies and other end-stage
22 consumers of uranium products in the medical,
23 energy, weaponry, and other areas of uranium
24 consumers. We feel this -- the interests I
25 represent feel this is an ideal spot for the mining



T52-1

T52-1

DOE considered all comments received on the Draft PEIS and the results of the PEIS evaluation in identifying Alternative 4 as DOE's preferred alternative. The withdrawal of the land comprising the ULP lease tracts was based on similar reasons given by the commenter with regard to the land containing prime uranium ore deposits.

Yoho-Wikse, Nicholas, Commenter ID No. T52 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 of uranium, perhaps even perfect. It takes about
2 one pound of uranium -- it takes about 3 million
3 pounds of coal to get the same power out of one
4 pound of uranium.

5 People here want to base their economy on
6 marijuana farms and their pleasure mountain, their
7 pleasure ski mountain. But I think it's a wise
8 idea, perhaps, to have a balance of conservative
9 and liberal interests, and Colorado works that way
10 quite a bit with ranchers and farmers and military
11 industries balanced with the ski area population.

12 There's a high cost to, quote,
13 sustainable energy. What do you think it takes to
14 make solar panels? Do you think that's free? Do
15 you think people don't break their backs on
16 assembly lines? You don't think the materials to
17 make those are going to run out?

18 One of the best reasons for mining
19 uranium here -- because we will get it elsewhere.
20 We'll get it somewhere else, for sure. But there
21 will be pretty good controls here, not perfect by
22 any means. But there will be a strong lobby in
23 this area to keep the industry relatively, quote,
24 safe, if anything can be safe.

25 The area is also close to several

T52-1
(Cont.)

T52-2

T52-2

Uranium mining experience that resides in the area is evident based on past mining activities. DOE believes that its preferred alternative involving continued mining activities at the lease tracts would continue to make use of all the valuable mining experience accumulated assuring protection of human health and the environment.

Yoho-Wikse, Nicholas, Commenter ID No. T52 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 end-stage consumers of uranium products: New
2 Mexico, California, Nevada, and Washington have
3 various medical weaponry facilities, energy
4 facilities, that would use the materials. We
5 basically support the gradual, continuous use of
6 nuclear products. It would be unwise to completely
7 disband the industry, as well as it would be to
8 mine all the uranium immediately.

9 We need to let our technicians gradually
10 increase their skills. The efficiency with both
11 nuclear energy for power and also with weaponry
12 will gradually increase. We don't have the staff
13 right now to be able to give you perfect weapons or
14 perfect power plants. We generally support renewed
15 underground testing of nuclear weapons. Mines you
16 might call them; they are not just weapons.

17 I disagree with this gentleman here who
18 says that a nuclear weapon is so much more horrible
19 than other weapons. I think it's no different than
20 your pocketknife, good sir. But I do agree with
21 you that all weapons are obscene.

22 I would say also that this is the least
23 of your worries. We have labs we can put in here.
24 You will not have a public commentary. You will
25 not know about them. And if an accident happens,

T52-2
(Cont.)

Yoho-Wikse, Nicholas, Commenter ID No. T52 (Cont.)

Capital Reporting Company
In Re: ULP PEIS Public Hearings 04-24-2013

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1 you would have wished that you would have had a
2 nuclear explosion in your vicinity.

3 MR. CAMERON: And I'm going to have
4 to ask you to wrap up.

5 NICHOLAS YOHO-WIKSE: Okay. That's
6 about it. My main point is that there's a lot of
7 good people in this area. It's a dynamic,
8 intelligent population. The mining is going to
9 take place somewhere, and I think the people here
10 will keep it in a better way than it would have
11 been in other places.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And I
13 think if you could stick around after we are done
14 just so we can get the correct spelling of your
15 name for the transcript.

16 And we're going to wrap up now. The
17 Department and our experts, if you need to talk to
18 them, ask them anything, Lawry, they're going to be
19 out by the posters, and I'm going to ask Ray
20 Plieness to come up and close the meeting out for
21 us.

22 LAWRY DE BIVORT: This is a question
23 that's relevant to everyone. What kind of
24 follow-up to the comments and questions that have
25 been put to you this evening will you be giving?

T52-3

T52-3

Comment noted. See response to T52-2.

Ziegler, Cynthia, Commenter ID No. E23

From: Cynthia Ziegler
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 24, 2013 9:32:49 AM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plieness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interests. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

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In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. The Uranium Leasing Program runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on economy, environment and public health. The PEIS lacks a detailed analysis of water quality, wildlife and water supplies. The cumulative impact analysis is also weak, excluding a comprehensive study of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market; we would also face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit. To help curtail these issues, DOE should create bonding and royalty requirements for ULP Lessees.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ziegler

E23-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

The reclamation provisions would be consistent with lease requirements, BLM's reclamation closures guidelines, and CDRMS's regulations as stated in Section 2.1.3 in the PEIS and included in Appendix C. As a cooperating agency, U.S. EPA Region 8 has provided guidance on reclamation requirements that was included in the mitigation measures discussed in the PEIS (see Table 4.6-1).

E23-2 Reclamation of all legacy mines under DOE's oversight within the ULP has been completed. There are currently 12 existing mines on eight lease tracts that will ultimately be reclaimed under the ULP. Other mines in the region are outside of the ULP and are not under DOE's oversight or authority to reclaim.

The evaluation of the use of the ULP land for development of "clean energy that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives" (except for renewable energy) is encompassed by Alternatives 1 and 2 of the ULP PEIS. The evaluation of the use of the land for development of solar energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and is not consistent with the "Purpose and Need" discussed in Section 1.4 of the PEIS. However, surface use of a majority of the ULP land for purposes such as development of renewable energy is not excluded by the ULP program. Although out of scope in this PEIS, DOE oversees numerous programs that are investigating and supporting a wide variety of energy production technologies including many based on renewable sources.

E23-3 DOE has conducted a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts Section 4.7 did analyze all past and present uranium activities within the 50-mile region of influence. The cumulative impacts analyses addressed all of the 13 resource areas (including those mentioned in this comment) and are evaluated in the PEIS in Section 4.7.2.

E23-4 DOE has studied the demographics within the regions of influence of the proposed action in accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality guidance on environmental justice and did not identify any minority or low-income populations. While there are a small number of minority and low-income individuals in the 50-mile region of influence for cumulative impacts evaluated in the PEIS, they account for less than 50% of the population, and do not exceed 20 percentage points above the state average, in any census block group. In addition, the impacts in most environmental resource areas and human health analyzed in this PEIS are minor. There would be no high or adverse impacts on the minority or low-income population groups or the general population.

Large-scale development of uranium resources in the three-county area could mean the immigration of workers and their families from outside the region. However, it is likely that all workers required for the mining and reclamation activities analyzed in the PEIS would come from within the three-county area. With no demographic impacts therefore likely to occur given the relatively small-scale of development under each of the alternatives, no boom and bust scenario is likely to affect either low-income and minority populations or the general population.

Ziegler, Cynthia, Commenter ID No. E23 (Cont.)

The socioeconomic evaluation for the alternatives indicates that as many as 253 direct jobs and 152 indirect jobs could be created (for Alternative 5 which would create the most number of the five alternatives). This additional employment constitutes a 0.6 percent increase in total employment in the three-county ROI.

Average unemployment for Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel counties for 2011 was reported to be about 10.3%, 11%, and 7.6%, respectively (see Section 3.8.1.1).

E23-5 See responses to E23-1 and E23-2.

Ziegler, Cynthia, Commenter ID No. E60

From: Cynthia Ziegler
To: mail_ulpeis
Subject: Clean Up and Clean Energy!
Date: Friday, May 31, 2013 11:04:06 PM

Dear

Dear Mr. Plienness:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Leasing Program (ULP) and its recent Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

The ULP covers roughly 25,000 acres of public lands across western Colorado, and future uranium development should only be done in a manner that protects public health, safety and welfare. The current PEIS is inadequate and it needs to expand its alternatives, bolster impact analyses, support renewable energy, and protect long-term public interest. For DOE to usher a process that results in the best choice, any analysis should also address bonding, royalty rates, uniform and holistic standards for mine reclamation, and uranium market conditions.

Under DOE's preferred alternative, scores of existing leases could operate alongside 19 new mines during peak operations. Instead, DOE should substantively consider a "Clean Alternative", one that prioritizes mine reclamation and safer energy alternatives. Western Colorado has thousands of un-reclaimed uranium mines and at the same time is renowned for its solar energy potential. DOE should put people back to work cleaning-up old mines and developing sustainable, renewable energy economies.

In order for future DOE uranium development to be done safely, impact analyses must include a thorough programmatic review alongside in-depth, localized information. Western Colorado has already carried the disproportionate burdens of an industry that left behind a legacy of waste and radioactive contamination. The PEIS lacks a detailed cumulative impacts study, excluding investigation of long-term economic development, transportation corridors, and public health; in general failing to consider the combined impacts of all past and present uranium activities in this region.

The ULP runs across Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties; it will inherently have regional implications on our economy, environment and public health. The PEIS states only "minor" environmental justice concerns are associated with increased uranium mining in this area. Yet, our communities would again become dependent on a boom & bust market and face unavoidable environmental and land use degradation for private companies to profit.

I believe DOE can offer a program that supports promising sustainable jobs without increased uranium mining. The DOE should contribute to our local economies by putting people back to work reclaiming old mines and developing renewable energy. Every Coloradan has the right to a clean environment, a strong economy and a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ziegler

E60-1 DOE believes it has adequately evaluated the range of reasonable alternatives (including reclamation) and that the information and analysis in the PEIS are adequate to support any of the alternatives. Use of ULP lease tracts to develop renewable energy is outside the scope of the PEIS and the authorization of the public land orders. DOE requires all mining activities conducted on the lease tracts to be compliant with lease terms and Federal, state, and local regulations that address protection of the public and the environment.

Royalty rates are established in the lease at the time of solicitation. DOE establishes bonding to be the amount adequate to reclaim the lessee's proposed activities as identified in the PEIS in Section 1.2.1. Royalties are based on uranium ore production tonnage and would be applicable to only Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

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Ziegler, Cynthia, Commenter ID No. E60 (Cont.)

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E60-5 See responses to E60-1 and E60-2.

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