

No: 16-074

December 16, 2016

Contact: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

NRC Finalizes Environmental Impact Statement for Reno Creek In Situ Uranium Recovery Project in Wyoming

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has determined there are no environmental impacts that would preclude licensing the Reno Creek uranium recovery facility proposed for Wright, Wyo., in Campbell County.

In its final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Reno Creek project, the NRC determined that only small environmental impacts would result from the construction, operation, aquifer restoration and decommissioning of the proposed in situ recovery facility. Small impacts are defined as those that would be undetectable or so minor that they would not noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource in question.

The Reno Creek report is a supplement to the NRC's Generic Environmental Impact Statement for In Situ Leach Uranium Milling Facilities (GEIS, NUREG-1910), published in June 2009, which analyzed potential environmental impacts common to in situ recovery facilities in the western United States. The Reno Creek supplement analyzes potential environmental impacts specific to the proposed facility.

The NRC published a draft SEIS in July for public comment. The final SEIS addresses comments received on the draft report and presents the NRC's conclusion that the environmental impacts of the in situ uranium recovery facility would not preclude issuing a license to operate.

AUC LLC applied in October 2012, for the license necessary to build, operate and ultimately decommission the proposed facility. Reno Creek would use the [in situ leach process](#) to recover uranium from underground ore and convert the recovered uranium into a form that can be used in the production of nuclear fuel.

The Reno Creek SEIS, NUREG-1910 Supplement 6, is available on the NRC [website](#).