

(STP-04-018, March 2004, Program, Ground-Water Protection)

March 12, 2004

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2004-02,
“DEFERRAL OF ACTIVE REGULATION OF GROUND-WATER PROTECTION AT *IN SITU*
LEACH URANIUM EXTRACTION FACILITIES” (STP-04- 018)**

On March 12, 2004 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a Federal Register (FR) Notice (69 FR 11899) providing opportunity to comment on Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-02, “Regulatory Issue Summary for Deferring Active Regulation Of Ground-Water Protection at *In Situ* Leach Uranium Extraction Facilities.”

The NRC is proposing to end duplication of ground-water protection programs at *In Situ* Leaching (ISL) facilities by deferring active ground-water regulation to EPA authorized States. The RIS summarizes the process that the NRC plans to use for insuring that a State’s ground-water protection program provides adequate protection of public health and safety, and the environment, equivalent to the NRC program.

Electronic copies of RIS 2004-02 are available in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS accession number for this document is ML040550197. Please note that this document is available for public **comment for 30 days** from the publication date of the FR notice.

Please provide your comments* to Mr. John Lusher, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop T-8 A33, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Telephone (301)415-7694, or e-mail jhl@nrc.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or the individual named below:

POINT OF CONTACT: Osiris Siurano
TELEPHONE: (301) 415-2307

INTERNET: OSP@NRC.GOV
FAX: (301) 415-3502

/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director,
Office of State and Tribal Programs

* This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 06/30/04 and OMB 3150-0200, expiration 05/31/06. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Forward any comments regarding the burden estimate to the Information and Records Branch (T-6F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0029 and 3150-0200), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a document does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information.