Organization of Agreement States

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September 4, 2025

Robert Sun
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555–0001

Dear Mr. Sun,

The OAS Executive Board (Board) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Issuance of Multi-Site License to Disa Technologies for Abandoned Uranium Mine Wate Remediation, Docket ID NRC-2025-0084. After reviewing the draft Environmental Assessment, and after receiving comments from our Agreement State partners, the Board has the following comments:

1. In the Final High-Pressure Slurry Ablation Treatability Study Report submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by Tetra Tech, Inc. and Disa Technologies, Inc. in December 2023, key findings included that the high pressure slurry ablation process did reduce uranium and radium-226 concentrations but was insufficient to achieve clean up goals for uranium and radium-226. The draft environmental assessment indicates Disa Technologies, Inc. will leave treated coarse materials on-site for disposal after treatment in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1402, but it is not clear how those treated materials will meet 10 CFR 20.1402 if one of the key findings presented by Disa Technologies, Inc. was that high pressure slurry ablation was insufficient to achieve clean up goals for uranium and radium-226.

2. Section 2.1 indicates that the expected operations would occur for approximately six months (Tier 1 in Table 1) to 13 years (Tier 5 in Table 1). These timelines are then used as one of the bases to assess the environmental impacts in Section 3. However, according to the "# of days" column in Table 1 and the assumption listed in Table 1's footnote that HPSA workers would work five 12-hour days per week, the expected operation would actually continue for approximately nine months instead of six months for Tier 1 and 18 years instead of 13 years for Tier 5. For example, for Tier 5, it is expected that the operation will continue for 4630 days. Assuming 5 working days per week and 52 weeks per year, there are 260 working days per year; therefore, the operation would continue for 4630/260 = 17.8 years. It appears that the "13 years" number assumes 365 working days per year which is inconsistent with the assumption of five working days per week (i.e., 260 working days per year). Therefore, this document underestimates how much time the expected HPSA operation would occur at a site and might potentially underestimate the associated environmental impacts.

3. Section 3.3.3 and Appendix A, Section 3.0, indicate that the generic Environmental Assessment (EA) assumes that any ground disturbance to process native soils underneath the waste rock piles would not reach the site water table (EA Assumption Number GS-3) and would not break through the confining layer of an underlying aquifer and result in the creation of a new pathway for water recharge of that aquifer (EA Assumption GS-4). However, in Appendix A, Section 2.0, it does not appear that site-specific hydrology or hydrogeology information will be provided to show the depth of site water table and the geological location of underlying aquifers. Without such information, EA Assumption GS-3 and GS-4 cannot be verified. We suggest the above-mentioned information be included in Appendix A, Section 2.0.

Once again, the Board appreciates this opportunity to comment. We are available should you have any questions or need clarifications to our responses.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sanderlin
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