



File Code: 1950-3/2800

Date: July 24, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

Kaibab National Forest is seeking public input during a 30-day comment period, which will begin August 3, 2009, and end September 2, 2009, as it initiates an analysis that will be documented in an environmental impact statement for the VANE Minerals, Inc. (VANE) proposed Plan of Operations. The Plan of Operations proposes to conduct uranium exploratory drilling at 24 sites on the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest in Coconino County, Arizona. All drilling will be strictly limited to exploration holes, and no actual mining of ore will occur at this time. For a detailed description of the proposed action, the project location, and the purpose of and need for the project, please refer to the accompanying summary and map.

Kaibab National Forest will be holding public meetings to seek input and comments on the proposed project from interested parties. The meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

- **August 11**, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Coconino Community College Lone Tree Campus, Board Room, 2800 South Lone Tree Road, Flagstaff, Arizona
- **August 12**, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (MDT), Tuba City High School Gymnasium, 67 Warrior Drive, Tuba City, Arizona
- **August 13**, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn, 100 Highway 64, Tusayan, Arizona
- **August 17**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Supai, Arizona

A Kaibab National Forest representative will present a brief summary of the proposed project at the beginning of the meetings, approximately 15 minutes after the start of each meeting.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500, for implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) will be preparing an environmental impact statement of the proposed project. This analysis will disclose the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be implemented. The Forest Service is seeking your input in identifying issues and concerns regarding this proposal.

Your comments will be considered and used to identify and clarify issues associated with this proposal, as well as alternatives and mitigations to resolve these issues and meet the purpose of and need for the project. We ask that comments be as specific as possible. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons to be considered in the analysis.



Comments on this proposal should be received by the Kaibab National Forest between August 3, 2009, and September 2, 2009. There will be an additional opportunity to submit comments when the Draft EIS is released at a future date. Please visit the project website, located at www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai, to provide comments and get updated information on the project.

Written comments on this notice may be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Kaibab National Forest
ATTN: VANE Minerals Uranium Exploratory Drilling Project
800 South 6th Street
Williams, Arizona 86046

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to 928/635-8208 and by electronic mail (e-mail) to comments-southwestern-kaibab@fs.fed.us. E-mail and facsimile comments must include the words "VANE Minerals Uranium Exploratory Drilling Project."

A toll-free comment phone line is also set up to record comments at 1-888-494-4940.

For further information on the VANE Minerals Uranium Exploratory Drilling Project, please contact Tom Mutz, Lands and Minerals Staff Officer, in writing at Williams and Tusayan Ranger Districts, 742 South Clover Road, Williams, AZ 86046 or by telephone at 928/635-5600. Questions regarding the Forest Service NEPA process may be directed to Alvin Brown, Forest NEPA Coordinator, at 800 South 6th Street, Williams, AZ 86046 and by telephone at 928/635-8200.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request that the agency withhold a submission from the public record.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael R. Williams
MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor