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March 9, 2017

Wyoming Environmental Quality Council 122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Herschler Bldg. 1W, Room 1714 Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Uranium Recovery Program Rules

Chairman Bagley and Council,

The Wyoming Mining Association (WMA) supports the rule package for an agreement state program for uranium recovery. WMA believes that Wyoming should become an agreement state and regulate uranium recovery within Wyoming. WMA believes that agreement state status for Wyoming for uranium recovery is in the best interests of both the uranium recovery industry and the citizens of Wyoming. Agreement state status for Wyoming will enable it to regulate the uranium recovery industry on its own through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality with minimal Federal oversight. This should eliminate duplicative work, result in lower costs and reduced regulatory delays for uranium companies in Wyoming, and will help to promote a stable and stronger uranium recovery industry in the state. This in turn will result in improved prospects for industry employment and growth, as well as state revenue.

The rule package before you is the result of a substantial collaborative effort between Land Quality Division (LQD) staff and members of the uranium recovery industry to prepare a set of rules acceptable to the State, the industry and to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who must ultimately approve them. It meets the needs of the people of Wyoming and its uranium recovery industry. This package of rules represents the combined expertise of LQD staff and members of the uranium recovery industry. The Wyoming Mining Association requests that they be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Best regards,

Travis Deti

**Executive Director**