Message

From: Shea, Valois [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A4217A71307D4429B7BDC7C80EB40C7D-SHEA, VALOIS]
Sent: 7/13/2017 9:53:32 PM
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: RE: Uranium mining in the Black Hills

Thank you for emailing me your comments on the draft UIC Dewey-Burdock permitting actions. I have added your email to the list of public comments received. I have also added you to my contact list to keep you informed on future EPA activities related to these proposed actions.

Thank you!
Valois

Valois Shea
U.S. EPA Region 8
MailCode: 8WP-SUI
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Phone: (303) 312-6276
Fax: (303) 312-6741
Email: shea.valois@epa.gov

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:33 PM
To: Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>
Subject: Uranium mining in the Black Hills

Dear Commissioners -
As a former elected official living in a sensitive U.S. watershed, I have learned that fresh water resources are scarce to begin with, and becoming even scarcer, especially West of the 100th Meridian (I was born in Eastern Many Branstetter and frequently pass through the Black Hills on my way "home". Other resources, including public confidence, are also scarce these days, which makes your decisions regarding uranium mining in the Black Hills even more sensitive. As you know better than I, any activity that may potentially jeopardize these resources needs to be prioritized against potential and actual gains realized by that activity. Uranium mining in the Black Hills is an obvious loser in this equation.

Several factors make it clear that these trade offs for uranium mining in the Black Hills would be a very poor investment in our future as a society, as well as regional residents. First, uranium mining has known, statistically certain risks (contamination of land and fresh water from mining and waste disposal), as well as potential risks (mining accidents, nuclear accidents with catastrophic consequences such as those seen at Chernobyl and Fukushima, loss of community confidence with its many attendant costs) that are not worth the additional energy produced for anyone, either regionally or nationally. Second, the increased availability of other, less risky and generally cheaper energy resources make the more risky choice of uranium extraction a poor investment, strictly from a community investment perspective. At worst, brief energy shortages may have the effect of reducing public reliance on these energy sources--something which some think would be a desirable for heavy societal consumption of energy. Third, while I believe that the jobs created by mining enterprises have value, they do not outweigh even other potential sources of energy sector jobs, much less the

enormous interests of the public and of other enterprises in clean water and communities confident in the decisions made by their representatives and other leadership (such as yours). Once this confidence is lost through either initial decisions or their eventual consequences, regaining public confidence and encouraging investment may take generations. Risky uranium mining is almost certain to have such effects on segments of society already troubled by past public decisions.

It should be clear that I oppose uranium mining for these reasons, as any fair-minded person would after careful consideration of these and other arguments. As a steering committee member for the National League of Cities' Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources committee 2005-2007), I learned that energy resources (such as uranium for nuclear energy, coal for oxidized energy, and water for hydroelectric energy) often must be prioritized against other natural resources (for example land and water resources traded for radioactive products, habitat and cultural resources for minings, and community health for energy extraction & consumption in the case of uranium). Your steering of this difficult community-wide decision regarding utilities, which are the primary users of energy production from uranium extraction, is a heavy burden, and I greatly appreciate your willingness to manage this sometimes thankless work. I hope that you will find your way to a decision in the best interest of all constituents--current and future.
Sincerely,

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Get Outlook for iOS

Get Outlook for iOS