Message

From: Shea, Valois [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A4217A71307D4429B7BDC7C80EB40C7D-SHEA, VALOIS]
Sent: 4/28/2017 9:07:38 PM
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: RE: ⚠ACTION NEEDED: Uranium Mining Black Hills

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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 actions related to the site.

Here is the link to the EPA UIC program website that contains all the information in the Administrative Record, in case you do not already have it:
https://www.epa.gov/uic/administrative-record-dewey-burdock-class-iii-and-class-v-injection-well-draft-area-permits

The public comment period is in effect through May 19, 2017, in case you have any additional comments after reviewing this information.

Thank you!
Valois

Valois Shea
U.S. EPA Region 8
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Denver, CO 80202-1129
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Email: shea.valois@epa.gov

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:57 PM
To: Shea, Valois <Shea.Valois@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: ⚠ACTION NEEDED: Uranium Mining Black Hills

I am writing to let you know that not only is this a concern for the Black Hills area, but should be a concern of the whole SD state. Why on Earth are we letting others in to mine and drill on SD land who are not even from here? regardless though, This is horrible! Please know that myself and many others are against this Uranium mining and pollution of our water and lands. I am from Eastern SD but my husband and I have been seriously considering moving our family to the Hills in the near future (Preferably the Hot Springs area) If the water is polluted, there is no way that will happen, we will just stay put! Please do not let big companies (or anyone for that matter) pollute our wonderful state! Without water, life dies.

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

"Do not meddle in the affairs of Dragons, for you are crunchy and good with ketchup!"

On Monday, April 10, 2017 3:06 PM, Dakota Rural Action - Black Hills Chapter <tbrennan@dakotarural.org> wrote:

DAKOTA RURAL ACTION

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING FOR THE FUTURE

Black Hills Chapter

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Help Us Stop Uranium Mining in the Black Hills

Thank you for signing a petition opposing ISL (in-situ leach) uranium mining in South Dakota! I thought you'd like to know about an important development - the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) has issued draft permits for Powertech Uranium (Azarga). If these permits were to be finalized, they would allow the company to inject waste water into the Minnelusa aquifer, and to drill 4,000 wells into the Inyan Kara aquifer to conduct the mining process. The Minnelusa and Inyan Kara aquifers are currently being used by people for drinking water and agricultural operations. Yes, the mining would occur in an aquifer being used by people!

If they were finalized, these permits would be a license to pollute our groundwater. We need to stand up once again and say that we don't want uranium mining in the Black Hills.

As you know, water is precious in western South Dakota. Why risk our scarce water for a foreign company that has never mined uranium, and for a mining technique that has never returned water to its original condition?

The EPA is holding hearings in **Rapid City** (May 8 and 9), **Hot Springs** (May 10), and **Edgemont** (May 11) to gather public input on the proposed permits. Please attend the hearings. We hope that you will speak to state your concerns -- but just being present is also important. Show the EPA that we are watching. The details can be found here:

https://www.dakotaruralblackhills.org/uranium-mining

If you are unable to attend, please submit a written comment by May 19, 2017. The EPA needs to hear from concerned citizens like you!

Click Here to download our 2017 Uranium Mining Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet April 2017

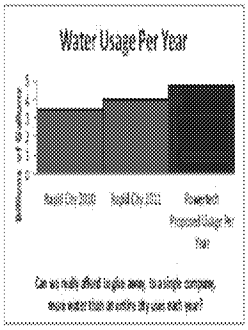
Black Hills Uranium Mining: Not Worth the Risks

Powertech (Dakota), a Canadian company, now known as Azarga (Dakota) as a result of a merger take over and name change, whose major shareholder and a continued source of funding is a Chinese investment fund who itself is under investigation by the Chinese authorities, seeks three state permits and federal licensing to build the first ever US uranium mine and processing plant in South Dakota.

They propose making vast amounts of water out of thin ground, mixing it with chemicals, injecting it back into the ground to dissolve and extract the uranium, then concentrating the radioactive material (yellow cake) on-site for shipping by truck.

Water Quantity & Quality

Azarga is seeking South Dakota permits for 350 gallons of water/minute from the Madison Aquifer and 8,500 gallons/minute from the Inyan Kara Formation. That's 12.24 million gallons per day for 20 years.[1] In 2012, Rapid City used 11.15 million gallons per day.[2]



Can we really afford to give away, to a single company, more water than an entire city uses each year?

- If Azarga bought the water from Rapid City, it would have to pay $4 million dollars a year for the amount it seeks, but the company expects to get it for free.
- Azarga is requesting an exemption from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act so they can dispose of mining waste water in and above our sources of drinking water.
- South Dakota remains in a long-term drought. "Because the project is presently expected to operate for between 7 and 10 years...it will result in losses of significantly greater quantities of water via evaporation."[3]
- Despite lacking adequate, long-term aquifer test data, in 2009 Azarga (then Powertech) presented predictions of significant water level declines in other aquifers over 3 miles away. For example, the Fall River aquifer is predicted to drop up to 42 feet. Those who get their water from a well know the significance of this kind of depletion.[4]

It's Just Not Safe

Among other hazards, radon emissions, toxic heavy metals and other pollutants, including chloride, sulfate, sodium, radium, arsenic and iron, are in SD. wastewater ponds. Accidents and leaks in this kind of operation are inevitable, raising concerns about runoff into the Cheyenne River and Angostura Reservoir. It is a big deal! We're not just talking about some inert solution. The worst serious radiation release in the US came from a tailings pond spill at a uranium mine in New Mexico.

"The groundwater under one of the aquifers will have been gone, the water, it's the water, it's a resource. The resource is there, but we can't access it anymore." Dave Duke, Ph.D.

- Containment is not possible due to natural fissures and fractures in the geology of this region.[5]
- In response to Azarga's (then Powertech) lobbying, in 2011, the state abdicated responsibility for underground water regulation, leaving that in jurisdiction of the EPA, which has no offices in South Dakota. This means monitoring and enforcement would be inadequate.[6]

Dakota Rural Action

EPA Hearings: April 27th, May 8th –11th.

For more information, details on hearings and how to help visit www.dakotaruralblackhills.org

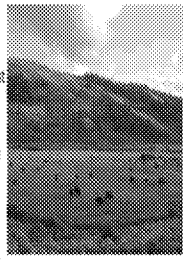
Economics: Too much is at stake. Protect what we have.

Uranium mining is a boom and bust business, prioritizing short-term extraction and exportation for foreign gain over the sustainable income source offered to local people by tourism and agriculture.

Annual Tourism Sales in the Black Hills: $1.4 billion in 2012, growing at a rate of 5% per year.[7] This accounts for 72% of South Dakota's total tourism dollars. South Dakota depends on tourism for 37,000 jobs and 19% of its tax revenue. We don't need new uranium mining to tarnish SD's status as a world-class tourist destination, for a handful of risky, temporary mining construction jobs. Too much long-term damage to land, water, air, and cultural resources is at stake. When uranium companies recently tried to reopen mines around the Grand Canyon, the federal government moved to protect the natural heritage by banning uranium mining in a 1 million-acre area around the scenic visitors' attraction. "Mining is a boom-and-bust industry that harms tourism and robs local economies of long-term benefits."[8]

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold in Fall River, Custer and Shannon Counties: $131.11 Million in 2007 (latest census data)[9]

Clean, potable water is critical for agriculture in this semi-arid state in the midst of serious drought. It's obvious that our water needs to be protected and conserved. SD. uranium mining will result in contamination of ground and surface water with radioactive materials and heavy metals harmful to humans, wildlife and livestock. These three counties will be the most immediately affected.



"In the area of production of an UR deposit, the operator is the [illegible] the quality of [illegible] aquifers. Other [illegible] and [illegible] can [illegible] [illegible] forever."
– US Geological Survey

Other Concerns:

- The water and land have never been restored.
- There are more than 100 archaeological sites that date from pre-history on the 10,000-acre proposed permit area.
- The uranium-bearing rock formation circles the outer edge of the Black Hills. Exploration has been done from Sturgis to Buffalo Gap and from Hulett south and east to Hot Springs. If Azarga's proposed project goes through, the entire Black Hills is an open door to uranium mining.

What You Can Do

1) Join DRA and the Black Hills Chapter. Let us know you want to get involved. Learn more and connect with others who are taking action, www.dakotaruralblackhills.org

2) Learn more: SDCleanWaterAlliance.org, PowerTechExposed.com, NoeUranium.com

4) Contact your elected officials and ask them to oppose uranium mining.

Testify at one of the following hearings:

April 27 from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Niobrara Lodge, 800 US Hwy 20, Valentine, Nebraska; May 8-9, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Best Western Ramkota, 2111 N. La Crosse St., Rapid City; May 10 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Wheeler Center, 801 S. 6th St., Hot Springs; May 11 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church, 310 3rd Ave., Ridgemont.

Sources:

1. South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), [illegible], Powertech, [illegible]
2. City of Rapid City Water Division, [illegible] 2011 total annual water consumption
3. Robert E. Moran, M.D., [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]
4. Dennis E. Dickey, M.D. Geologist
5. 2011 South Dakota Senate Bill 158
6. 2011 South Dakota Department of Environmental Protection
7. Rapid City, The Black Hills Visitor Bureau
8. 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture

Dakota Rural Action

Dakota Rural Action is a grass-roots, non-profit organization in South Dakota dedicated to community organizing. Through member-driven efforts, DRA works on a range of issues important to family farming and ranching in the state. The Black Hills Chapter is working on a campaign to stop uranium mining as it threatens natural resources, health, local economy and progressive energy alternatives. It's just not safe. Join us.

West River Office
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Rapid City, SD 57701
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Read More

Protect Black Hills Water

Tell the EPA that Uranium Mining & Milling are Not Worth the Risk! Public Comment Period Open Until May 19, 2017.

Write Now! Attend the Local Hearings!

A foreign holding company is seeking three EPA permits to pollute the precious water tables underlying the Black Hills of South Dakota, which is the recharge area for our streams and lakes, municipal supplies, private wells, and agricultural use in the entire western state.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

Learn More and Take Action!

To keep up to date on this and other issues in the Black Hills, please sign up on our website to continue to receive these important updates. www.dakotaruralblackhills.org

Join the Black Hills Chapter of Dakota Rural Action on Facebook!

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