Shea, Valois

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Shea, Valois
Subject: Dewey-Burdock Public Comment

Dear EPA Region 8 Administrators,
I wish to submit this email as a public comment in opposition to the proposed Dewey-Burdock Class III and Class V Injection Well Draft Area Permits to be located near Edgemont, South Dakota.

I was born and raised in Pierre, SD and grew up with the Missouri River in my backyard. I drank, cooked with, and bathed in water from wells tapping the Missouri River. I learned how to catch walleye, bass, and salmon that swam in its waters and relished the meals they provided for my family. I even worked as a life guard on the banks of the river while working for Mark Hollenbeck when he was the mayor of Ft. Pierre. Mark is a good man, but this is a bad idea.

The Cheyenne River is one of the biggest tributaries of the Missouri River and this proposal puts the Cheyenne and the Missouri on a collision course for pollution from not only groundwater migration, but from surface water pollution as well. To say this water will all be contained "on-site" is a bit like trying to catch a rain storm with an ice-cream pail. To further say that Powertech/Azarga will inject cleaner water back in the ground than what came out is even more ridiculous when one looks at the stratified nature of the underlying aquifers in the area. Yes, there are underground water formations that are not fit for human consumption, but interspersed at varying depths are formations that are comprised of pristine water that thousands in Rapid City and throughout the Black Hills and beyond depend on for drinking, for farming, and for ranching. It is these formations that could be at risk that must be considered.

In business school one of the first lessons students are taught is that of a "cost-benefit analysis." Simply put, one looks at the costs of a proposal and the benefits to be derived and if the costs outweigh the benefits common sense dictates that you do not proceed. The potential environmental costs of this proposal far outweigh any short-sited economic hiccup this could provide our state.

South Dakotans are still paying the tab left by previous mining companies and uranium mining has left one of the biggest tabs to date. Taxpayers have already spent millions on uranium brownfield mitigation in the Slim Buttes area of South Dakota and to this day near Edgemont there are hundreds of sites that have yet to see any mitigation decades after the mining interests left town with all the economic prosperity they originally promised. Who is left to sort out the mess, South Dakotans and folks like you with the federal government. Who is left with the uncertainty as to what the environmental and health care ramifications are that remains? Typically those who can do the least about it, the unborn child who has a greater likelihood of birth-defects, the disenfranchised on reservations, or those who can neither afford nor have time to even begin to figure out how to deal with it. Unless, we stop the problem before it starts.

Let's first clean up the waste-fields and open pits we have already, before we start creating problems we can't see or fix so easily miles underground. In the meantime, ask yourselves if you would drink the water in a pitcher or bottle from this area, or from Pierre if this project is allowed to proceed. Better yet, would you feel comfortable giving that water to your grandchildren today or twenty years from today? My Rapid City friends,

my ranching friends, my farming friends, and my Lakota friends are correct. We are indeed all connected and we all live downstream.

Thank you for your consideration of my words and for your consideration of my home.

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