

## **Powertech water use Permit from NRC**

**My name is Georgia Holmes and I have lived in HS for almost 30 years, Custer for 18 years and Neb for 5 years. As a member HS city council I care deeply about our water use, but I am here speaking on my own behalf. I am a Medical Technologist and daughter of a Miner . My family mined into the Black Hills for over 70 years ago. My grandfather was a geologist and my father was a well know miner here in the Black Hills. He owned 28 surface mines before he passed away in 1988. He taught me that our water was more precious than any mineral he could mine. He mined most of the Rose Quartz you see in this area along with feldspar and Tantilum. But, since his death few new surface mines have been opened or mined and one reason is because of the knowledge we now have to protect our forests and yes, our water. I believe that it is a good thing to have this protection but I believe we may not be doing enough.**

**I became a Medical Technologist so I could work in the Laboratory to help diagnose and to help treat illnesses such as silicosis, lung diseases and cancers and also, then study what causes them. If we can prevent an illness we must use our knowledge to do just that. Why cause any physical pain if it can be prevented.**

**I support contention #2 as I have worked with radio active Isotopes in the lab and all employers**

are required to do QA monitoring and evaluate the amount of radiation employees are exposed to while working. If it reaches an unacceptable level they are removed from using the material. What is our base line level here in Fall River and when was that level obtained? Was it last year, 2, 3, 4, 25 or 50 years ago or when the last uranium mine was in service? We do have this level evaluated here in the City of HS and the water samples that we send to the state are at a safe level. If anyone is interested it is printed in the paper for public knowledge. What level will it need to be increase before it is recognized as a hazard? Do the people in the Dewey <sup>Surdock</sup> ~~Murdoc~~ area know what a safe level is for their family? If so, should they still be living there? We, Fall River and Custer Counties have unfortunately given up our control to prevent the sale or use of our water and also the spread of contamination in our waters. This was a result of the passing of SB158. To paraphrase this, our lifeblood could be taken away from us or contaminated with a virus if you allow this permit and we have no ability to stop this from happening except to plead to you now to vote No.

Contention #3 asks for an adequate Hydrogeological study to be performed to evaluate the migration of the water. I believe this is in the process and the City has been asked to contribute to the cost. It is not a cheap request. This brings up the subject of what one of our Senators stated to me. “

**The state of SD can't afford to monitor this problem"**  
**We have no NRC that can regulate this project.**

**President Theodore Roosevelt stated in the early 1900's "Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood— the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life." — Theodore Roosevelt** Add Category or Author

**"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value" — Theodore Roosevelt** Add Category or Author

**. Public right comes first and private interests second." — Theodore Roosevelt** Add Category or Author

**Please represent the generations of "people" to follow us and save our aquifers and our Hills from earthquakes and unsafe waters.**

**We have a serious problem that I feel has been ignored over and over. We have two fault lines in the Dewey Murdock area that generate to Yellowstone. This fault line is already experiencing earthquakes at Yellowstone and it has been stated that it is a caldron waiting to erupt. We have warm water springs in Hot Springs because they are heated from deep in the earth's crust. We are at risk at this fault if 40 holes are drilled in a 150-acre area that is surrounding that fault line and then is left to cave in or move and weaken the sensitive earth's crust. The water that is pumped back into the earth at this area under pressure could also set off more earthquakes that we in the Southern Hills**

**already experience. We are a catacomb of tunnels we can not risk having either the uranium and other metals partially removed and then diluted and sent back to disturb this area. Eventually it will contaminate our water. I care too much for the pure water we do have in the Black Hills and our warm water in our City and historic Evans Plunge.**

**Contention #4 deals with the quantity of our water and the natural springs that we hold a license from the State of SD to use. Will this license be compromised? There isn't enough information supplied to have this evaluated. Who's job is this to supply and who is paid to supply the information? Please vote not to give this permit.**

**Thank you,**

**Georgia Holmes MT ASCP CLS**