

From: [Ralph Knode](#)
To: [Docket, Hearing](#); [Sciretta, Nicholas](#); [Desai, Sachin](#)
Subject: [External_Sender] ASLB hearing on Crow Butte Mine
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2015 5:55:01 PM

Administrative Judge Michael M. Gibson, Chairman, I am a landowner, irrigator and potable water user in Dawes County, Nebraska. The White River runs through my farm in Dawes County. My wife, children and grandchildren are lifelong residents of Dawes County. I am in no way associated with the Crow Butte Mine owned and operated by Cameco. I am a practicing geologist with over 30 years of ISR mining experience in the US and internationally. I am well versed in geology and hydrology, especially in Western Nebraska.

Having said that I would like to offer the following comments to the Board;

- The Crow Butte Mine has been in operation for over 25 years near the town of Crawford, NE and in that time there has never been a single documented instance of private or public water wells (domestic, livestock, etc.) having been affected by the mining operations.
- The mine has demonstrated their ability to control the mining solutions and to restore groundwater to approved regulatory levels.
- Opponents to the Crow Butte Mine make absurd accusations with absolutely no evidence to back the claims.
- It is geologically impossible for the mining fluids to migrate to Chadron, NE or the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota as the intervenors claim.
- Geologic formations and area aquifers are naturally high in uranium, it has nothing to do with the mining process. As was recently published by the University of Nebraska, naturally occurring uranium in the Ogallala Aquifer has been mobilized by man induced nitrates. For the record, the Ogallala Aquifer is not present in the area surrounding the Crow Butte Mine.
- The Crow Butte Mine has an exemplary record over the last 25 years in both safety and environmental issues.
- Cameco's Crow Butte Mine is the consummate "good neighbor" in Dawes County. For decades they have supported the surrounding communities in everything from their hiring practices to their purchasing to their significant support of local educational entities.

In closing I would ask Board to dismiss all groundwater contentions and let the Crow Butte Mine do what they have been doing well for the last 25 years; safely mining uranium and providing good, safe jobs for local residents.

I appreciate the chance to express my views to the Board.

Ralph Knode

Whitney, Nebraska