

From: [Lilias Jarding](#)
To: [Sciretta, Nicholas](#); [Desai, Sachin](#); [Docket, Hearing](#)
Subject: [External_Sender] Cameco Resources License
Date: Friday, August 28, 2015 11:02:27 AM
Attachments: [ASLB Letter 8-28-15.pdf](#)

Greetings --

Please see the attached letter on the above matter.

Thank you --

Lilias Jones Jarding, Ph.D.

P. O. Box 591
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709
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August 28, 2015

Administrative Judge Michael M. Gibson
c/o Nicholas Sciretta and Sachin Desai
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Nicholas.sciretta@nrc.gov, sachin.desai@nrc.gov, and hearingdocket@nrc.gov

Dear Judge Gibson:

I write in opposition to the renewal of the license of Cameco Resources for the Crow Butte in situ leach uranium mine.

I am a professor at a college that is located near the Crow Butte mine, and I have done research related to uranium for over 35 years. My publications in professional journals include articles on this topic, and I have presented to hundreds of audiences about uranium mining. My Ph.D. is in Political Science with a focus on Environmental Policy.

My research indicates that the Crow Butte mine has proven itself to be a threat to area aquifers and surface waters, with 75 violations and reportable incidents. In the last two years, there have been seven excursions at the mine. One incident was not reported for over two years, indicating that Cameco is either unable or unwilling to take responsibility for its operation's safety. In my opinion, this operator has proven itself ineligible for a license extension.

This mine was also constructed so that its wells pass through the major aquifer in the area, an extension of the High Plains or Ogallala aquifer. This aquifer serves communities, farms, and ranches across the entire Great Plains. According to research by one of my colleagues, this area is not geologically suited for an in situ operation. Government-sanctioned threats to this aquifer's quality are not good policy.

The Crow Butte mine also trespasses on sites that are sacred to the Lakota nation. United States law requires protection of indigenous religious rights under both Constitutional law and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Those rights should be protected not only as a matter of law, but also as matters of equality and morality. Government-sanctioned violation of religious rights has no place in the United States.

While I recognize that my comments have no legal weight, I urge you to take the important testimony you have heard this week under close consideration. And I urge you not to renew Cameco's license. The negative impacts on our region would be too great.

Sincerely,



Lili Jones, Ph.D.