

**From:** [Joshua McDonald](#)  
**To:** [Sciretta, Nicholas](#); [Desai, Sachin](#)  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Crow Butte Resources Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, August 29, 2015 1:50:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [Crow Butte Mine Public Comment.pdf](#)

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Attached is letter of public comment against the continued permitting of Crow Butte Resources in operation of Crow Butte Mine. Thank you for accepting this.

Joshua McDonald  
362 Evans Lane  
Lot 9  
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August 28, 2015

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board,

I am writing to express my concern over the renewal permit that could be issued to Cameco Crow Butte Resources. As experts have pointed out, there are many issues that have been involved with this mine, and I fear for the people and natural resources surrounding the Crawford, Nebraska area.

One of the biggest issues is that the regulations do not require off site water testing for uranium and other heavy metals that are procured from the ground in the uranium mining process. This seems like it should be written into the procedure for any uranium mining operation to ensure the safety of the communities surrounding the mines.

In regards to Contentions 12-14, Cameco has an ongoing record failing to deal with industrial and rangeland wildfire. 75 violations reflect a heedless disregard to protect the people, livestock, and wildlife as these violations occurred, or in the effects in the aftermath. These costs were simply externalized to the people living near the mine, and to mother nature, who should not be treated as an infinite resource, with disregard for the long term consequences of such negligence.

It also seems an egregious breach of human rights to disregard members of the Oglala Lakota Nation, and individual members who are taking a stand against Cameco Crow Butte Resources. It seems yet another form of institutional racism to not even consult the Indigenous Tribal Nations of the area in the permitting of mining activities. Mining of this scale directly affects the heritage of native peoples, as this is considered sacred land, with artifacts containing a deep and rich history of a culture of a people that inhabited this area long before any other culture.

In closing, the Cameco Crow Butte Resources have committed many violations with this mine already. To permit them to continue mining in this area seems irresponsible. With the safety of all peoples living in proximity to the mine, their livestock, and the natural resources that must remain healthy to support them, I strongly encourage you to deny the permit to continue. The extraction of uranium is an inherently dangerous and risky endeavor. To permit a company who has not treated their responsibility with the seriousness needed to protect people, livestock, and the natural resources surrounding the mine would be a continued and expanded threat to the continuance of the rural way of life and the resources on which that life depend.

Sincerely,

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August 28, 2015