

StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

From: Sonja Swift <sonjaswift@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 11:55 AM
To: StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Protect Water and Life!

Dear Cindy,

Concerning Docket ID NRC-2011-0148 Strata Energy Lance/Ross proposed **in situ leach uranium mining** near ***Mato Tipila***, Bear Lodge (Devil's Tower) a **sacred site and national park** I write as a concerned citizen and land owner in the region to ask for your common sense and land ethic in NOT approving this mine. PROTECT LAND AND PEOPLE *NOT* private interests and corporate greed. Please. We have seen enough of this kind of reckless mining/oil drilling/fracking = severe pollution already.

CLEAN WATER IS WORTH MORE THAN URANIUM. Radiation, contamination, that will outlive our great great grand children.

Further concerns, which I imagine you are already aware of, include:

- Consider that the proposed uranium mining and processing area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from the early days of uranium exploration. Thanks to our efforts, the NRC has been requiring Strata to locate and plug these old exploration wells prior to mining, but there are still concerns. This license condition MUST be applied to the expansion project because old wells in the area could serve as conduits for water contamination from Strata's project. NRC has identified that water contamination could result from "improperly plugged previous exploration drillholes that have not yet been properly abandoned." NRC needs to do a better job at analyzing the risk that these old drillholes – both inside and immediately adjacent to Strata's project area – represent.
- Consider that the proposed mining and processing process has an extremely high consumptive use of water, which has the potential to draw down the aquifers that provide drinking water and water for livestock.
- Consider the track record of spills, excursions, pond leaks, and failed aquifer restoration at previous uranium mines in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Texas. Impacts of past uranium projects have been significant – with routine spills, leaks, and excursions of chemicals into adjacent aquifers. To date, not a single uranium project has fully restored an aquifer to pre-mining water quality. There is no indication that Strata's operations will prevent these impacts.
- Consider the cumulative impacts to water quality and quantity from the full scope of Strata's whole project, which includes this first permitted site of the Ross Project with an anticipated four additional projects in the approximately twenty mile area of the "Lance District" in Crook County. Strata should not be allowed to expand until Powder River Basin Resource Council's appeal for the Ross Project is settled.
- Minimize light pollution and other industrial impacts to landowners in the Oshoto area and to Devil's Tower National Monument.
- Minimize impacts to livestock grazing and recreation in the area.
- Minimize impacts from truck traffic, dust, and noise.

Thank you,
Sonja Swift

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