

## StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

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**From:** DeCory, Jace <Jace.DeCory@bhsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] protect water resources

To Whom This May Concern:

I am submitting letter of concern regarding the proposed in situ leach uranium mine near Mato Tipila, Bear Lodge, one of my people's most sacred sites on earth. Please take the following under consideration:

---Proposed uranium mining and processing area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from early days of uranium exploration. Although some have been plugged, 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 drill holes that have not yet been properly abandoned." NRC needs to do a better job at analyzing the risk that these old drill holes – both inside and immediately adjacent to Strata's project area – represent.

-- proposed mining/processing process has an extremely high consumptive use of water and the potential to draw down the aquifers that provide drinking water and water for livestock.

-- 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.

-- 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.

This proposed mine is in traditional 1868 Treaty land of the Lakota people and our prayers continue for these special, sacred lands. Pilamiyaye (Thank you) for listening to these serious concerns regarding the proposed uranium mine in Wyoming. Happy Earth Day.

Sincerely, Ms. Jace DeCory, Lakota (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe), Grandmother and Educator

1750 College Lane, # 13

Spearfish, SD 57783

605-722-8648 (h)

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