

## StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

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**From:** Carla Rae Marshall <carlaraemarshall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 4:40 PM  
**To:** StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Fwd: Docket ID NRC-2011-0148

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Greetings.

I write today to ask that you reject the Strata Energy license application on this expansion the uranium mining and processing site in Crook County near Devil's Tower and Oshoto Reservoir.

Please consider the following:

This mining is in direct violation of the 1869 Ft. Laramie Treaty. Matho Tipila, which was named Devil's Tower is a sacred site of many Tribal Nations in and around the area of this site. Under mandate by the United States Government a complete Tribal consultation is required.

Also please 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.

WAT

Thank you,

Carla Rae Marshall, Member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe P.O. Box 3184 Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-545-1430

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