

## StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

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**From:** Edward Starr <kakaivan12@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 11:07 PM  
**To:** StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Docket ID NRC-2011-0148

TO:

Cindy Bladey  
Office of Administration  
OWFN-12-H08  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sir,

I am submitting comment on the Devil Tower National Monument. I am a Native American, of the Titunwan band of the Seven Council Fires (composed of Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota bands). We have lived here in the area Mato Tipila (Devil Tower) for time immemorial as we came from the seven stars known as Pleiades which is the head of the white buffalo constellation of which Devils Tower is one of its horns. There have been three worlds before that were destroyed technology by first the black people by fire, then the technology of the yellow people by ice, then the technology of the red people by flood, and now this world is now ruled by the white people and it has now reached that point of technology and mining for fossil fuels, uranium exploration, nuclear waste, this world will surely be destroyed, and the beginning will arrive sooner than it should. Please do not issue any licenses to the powers that control this world.

- Also 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.

Respectfully submitted.

Thank you

Edward Starr  
Box 231  
Oglala, SD 57764

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