

## StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

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**From:** Pam Viviano <pamelav@hughes.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 16, 2016 2:32 PM  
**To:** StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Docket ID NRC-2011-0148

**Importance:** High

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of Strata Energy's uranium leaching project. I would like to begin by saying that I know of landowners near the Ross project who have had springs go dry since the start up of Strata's project. Although it would be impossible to prove that this project is already depleting water aquifers in the area, it is highly suspect and probably not a coincidence. This alone should be cause to reconsider allowing a 7,800 acre expansion of this project.

In regards to the expansion, I would also like the NRC to consider the following:

- Consider that the proposed uranium mining and processing area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from the early days of uranium exploration. Location of these old wells and proper plugging prior to mining 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 needs to do a better job at analyzing the risk that these old drill holes represent – both inside and immediately adjacent to Strata's project area.
- 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, and possibly already has.
- Consider the track record of spills, excursions, pond leaks, and failed aquifer restoration at previous uranium mines in Wyoming. 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. Therefore, expansion of the existing project is not in the best interest of adjacent landowners.
- Consider the cumulative impacts to water quality and quantity from the full scope of Strata's whole project, which includes the 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.
- Consider that there is an appeal in place against the Ross Project by PRBRC and NRDC which has not been settled as of this date. Strata should not be allowed to expand until this appeal against the Ross Project is settled.
- Consider that this large expansion will have further negative impacts to livestock grazing and recreation in the area.
- Consider that this further expansion will have increased negative impacts from truck traffic, dust, and noise.

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**Federal Register Notice:** 81FR1243  
**Comment Number:** 19

**Mail Envelope Properties** (625BBAE7947B476989607541BAD164D6)

**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Docket ID NRC-2011-0148  
**Sent Date:** 4/16/2016 2:32:06 PM  
**Received Date:** 4/16/2016 2:32:23 PM  
**From:** Pam Viviano

**Created By:** pamelav@hughes.net

**Recipients:**  
"StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource" <KendrickSEIS@nrc.gov>  
Tracking Status: None

**Post Office:** OwnerPC

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MESSAGE	2636	4/16/2016 2:32:23 PM

**Options**  
**Priority:** High  
**Return Notification:** No  
**Reply Requested:** Yes  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**  
**Recipients Received:**