

URGEISCEmails

From: Mark Belitz [mark_belitz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 02, 2008 12:49 AM
To: NRCREP Resource
Subject: Uranium Recovery GEIS

November 1, 2008

Chief, Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch
Mailstop: T6-D59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am apposed to the Generic Draft Environmental Impact Statement for In-Situ Leach (ISL) Uranium Milling Facilities. As stated in the draft "technology used for ISL uranium recovery is relatively standardized throughout the industry and therefore appropriate for a programmatic evaluation in a GEIS". This is a false assumption due to the fact that ISL in the Black Hills is a unique situation due to the topography and sudden weather events.

First, ISL in the Lakota and Fall River aquifers is unique in that those sandstone formations are brittle, porous, and fractured, leading to contamination of adjoining aquifers that are a vital part to livestock, wildlife, and human consumption. There is no guarantee that the solution or water used in the mining can stay within the designated aquifers rather than migrate to adjoining aquifers. That is just the nature of those sandstone formations found in the Southern Black Hills.

Secondly, ISL Uranium Milling Facilities can not predict nor hold the environmental conditions that often inflict the Southern Black Hills. The holding tanks in the Milling Facility will overflow whenever a large thunderstorm passes the facility. The thunderstorms -such as the one this summer that flooded more than ever recorded in this area- are often sudden and violent, producing copious amount of precipitation that are not common to most areas. This overflow will naturally dump into the adjacent Cheyenne River and contaminate miles of important wildlife and livestock habitat and a vital water source for the Angostura Reservoir that economically benefits the local community.

Third, the GEIS also does not account for the known archeological sites that are in proposed drilling sites. These sites have lithic scatter that cannot be moved, or categorized. ISL will permanently damage the significance and understanding of this cultural resource.

A Generic Draft Environmental Impact Statement for In-Situ Leach Facilities is the easy approach, but not the responsible approach. Please take the responsibility to address these topics to ensure the safety of those that must live with the consequences of your decision.

Sincerely,

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