

November 1, 2008

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

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
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To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this letter in opposition to the proposed Generic Environmental Impact Statement involving In-Situ leach mining in a region including the Southern Black Hills

The proposal to use a "Generic" statement that essentially lumps the specific sites in our area into that of a large region including 4 states will not effectively address the issues specific to our locality. This area is full of known cultural and archeological resources many which are unmarked. We have unique hydrogeological formations that are highly fractured and porous. Our "confined" aquifers in this area are still permeable which validates our concern for the long term effects on our water sources. Flash flooding is another concern that needs to be site specific considering overflow of holding ponds. Environmental impact statements were created to provide full discussion of significant environmental impacts and this is what we are requiring.

As a mother of young children I am very concerned about the health risks we may suffer through potential contamination of our well water, surface water, and rivers we utilize for livestock, gardening, agriculture, drinking, recreation etc. As a resident of the area I'm concerned about the detrimental effects this type of mining will have on our cultural and archeological resources, as well as our local industries and livelihoods that depend on these areas for tourism, recreation, and ceremonial purposes.

It is fact that in 30 years of ISL, no mine has been able to reclaim the water to its premining condition. The 2008 summer was a small relief from a 6 year drought for us. Many of us here are more concerned about water than energy as the primary resource to protect.

"The mission of the NRC is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure **adequate protection of public health and safety**, promote the common defense and security, **and protect the environment.**"

I would like to believe that the NRC can fulfill it's obligation of protecting the health and safety of public as stated in their mission statement. Yet in my experience of attending a hearing and a public information meeting I see this organizations main efforts is supporting the interests of the mining companies. The proposal to issue a Generic Environmental Impact Statement rather than address each site specifically is a short cut for the mines and neglect by the NRC. We can not accept generalities when so much is at risk for us who reside here.

Sincerely,
Jennifer L Belitz
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