

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 01/12/10

EDO CONTROL: G20090707
DOC DT: 12/10/09
FINAL REPLY:

Lilias Jones Jarding
Rapid City, South Dakota

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 09-0634

Miller, FSME

DESC:

ROUTING:

NRC's Staff Meeting with an Applicant for an NRC L
icense to Mine Uranium (EDATS: SECY-2009-0)

Borchardt
Virgilio
Mallett
Ash
Mamish
Burns/Gray
Franovich, OEDO

DATE: 12/18/09

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

FSME

Miller

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Dec 18, 2009 08:02

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-09-0634 **LOGGING DATE:** 12/17/2009
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Phd Liliias Jones Jarding
AFFILIATION: SD
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Concerns NRC's staff meeting with an applicant for an NRC license to mine uranium, and its supports

ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: SECY to Ack, RF

LETTER DATE: 12/10/2009
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:
NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 01/12/2010 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20090707

628 Harter Drive
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702
(970) 412-1924

December 10, 2009

Dr. Gregory Jaczko, Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, D.C. 20555-001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

In the first week of December, your staff met with a contractor of Powertech Uranium USA, applicant for an NRC license to mine uranium, and its supporters in Edgement, South Dakota. This meeting was, according to your staff (contacted by phone), not a meeting that necessitated any type of notice to the public. It was, your staff said, a "site visit" conducted by Mr. Bill Ford and Ms. Haimnot Yilma.

Apparently, the meeting was misrepresented by the local media. Curt Nettinga of the *Hot Springs Star* called it a meeting "with business, community and governmental representatives." However, there was no public notice, and it's not clear how the "business, community and governmental representatives" who attended were selected or invited. If the article was correct, all those present supported the mining.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Mr. Nettinga, was "to let people from the area know the status of the application and for the NRC officials to begin the task of gathering data that will go into a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement or SDEIS." This sounds like a scoping meeting. If this was a scoping meeting, it should clearly have been given full public notice.

If this was not actually the purpose of the meeting, then the question arises "Who said this was the meeting's purpose?"

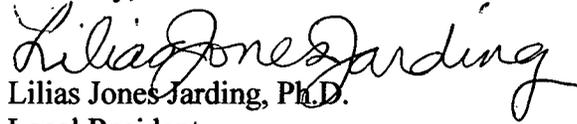
There was an appearance of impropriety because, apparently, only proponents of the project met with the NRC officials who were present. This indicates that only selected people were invited to the meeting.

Obviously, the media was present as well. When asked, your staff thought that maybe the applicant asked the media to attend. Clearly, there was an intention on someone's part to publicize the applicant's point of view. The fact that NRC's name and a photo of its staff were used to do this also creates an appearance of impropriety.

There are a lot of people who are interested in this project. The interest of people all around the Black Hills – and beyond – has been clear for several years. Many people oppose the project. The NRC has, at the very least, been “had.” The agency should hold another meeting that invites only those who oppose the project to a forum that garners media coverage for their point of view.

When you decide to do this, please let me know. I would be happy to help make arrangements for such a meeting.

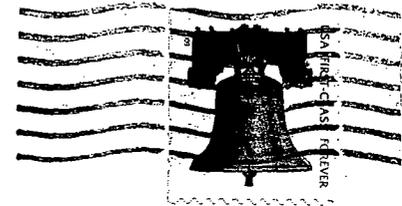
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lili Jones Jarding". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lili Jones Jarding, Ph.D.

Local Resident

Lilias Jones Jarding
628 Harter Drive
Rapid City, S.D. 57702



Dr. Gregory Jaczko, Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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