

Declaration of Shannon Anderson

I, Shannon Rose Anderson, declare as follows:

1. The facts and opinions set forth in this declaration are based on my personal knowledge and experience. If called as a witness in these proceedings, I could and would testify competently to these facts and opinions.
2. Since October 15, 2007, I have been employed by Powder River Basin Resource Council (“Powder River”). Powder River is a small community organization headquartered in Sheridan, Wyoming. I am employed as a community organizer for Powder River. Since I was admitted to the Wyoming Bar on October 31, 2008, I have also served as Powder River’s staff attorney, as needed.
3. For the past several years, I have been assisting a group of our members in Crook County, Wyoming address a variety of uranium mining proposals that they are facing, including Powertech’s Aladdin Project, Bayswater’s Elkhorn/Alazada Project, and Strata Energy’s Lance Project (which includes the proposed Ross Permit/License Area). As part of our work on these projects, our members and I attend meetings with project representatives, speak on panel discussions at public meetings, communicate with elected officials, and engage in other work to learn about the projects and their impacts and share our perspective with the public and the companies. While these activities are an important aspect of our community organizing work, they in no way replace the need to get involved in public participation opportunities provided by Federal and state law to protect the rights and interests of our organization and those of our members.
4. I was aware that Strata Energy submitted an application for a source materials license to the NRC at the beginning of 2011. However, at that time, after contacting Steven Cohen of NRC staff on February 2, 2011 about the anticipated timeframe for public participation, I became aware that the NRC was not going to start its review of the application until May 2011 “due to resource constraints.” I have attached a copy of this electronic communication with Steven Cohen to this declaration.
5. Based on my experience with numerous permit applications over the years, I know acceptance review of an application normally takes a couple of months and sometimes longer depending on the complexity of the application. Because of other more-pressing organizational priorities, and given that the NRC was not going to start its review of the application until May, we did not start considering the Strata Energy license application until mid-May.
6. Since applications are often revised during acceptance review, I did not want to devote significant organizational time and resources until after acceptance review. However, we did interview and hire Dr. Robert Moran to do a preliminary assessment of the application. This preliminary assessment was designed to inform our organization of the main issues and concerns with the application so we would be able to make a wise decision about additional participation and expenditure of organizational resources once the application was “accepted” and the opportunity to intervene commenced. Dr. Moran’s review was just that – preliminary. He reviewed the application for major issue areas and spoke with Strata’s representatives to ensure that he understood the material correctly. Dr. Moran completed his review at the end of June.

7. On July 13, 2011, after the notice was released about the opportunity to intervene, I contacted Geoff Fettus of the Natural Resources Defense Council (“NRDC”). Mr. Fettus and I have worked together over the years on uranium issues and I knew he would be interested in Dr. Moran’s report and assessing whether NRDC would be interested in a license intervention.
8. After further review of Dr. Moran’s report, Mr. Fettus and I identified the need to further consult with additional experts and have additional expert review of Strata Energy’s license application. Again, Dr. Moran’s report was meant as an overview and we realized we needed to expend additional resources to dive into the application. Mr. Fettus and I also identified the need to expend significant amounts of our own time reviewing the application and applicable laws, regulations, guidance documents, and other materials. We knew this would take considerable amounts of time and became quickly concerned that we would not be able to complete this review and research prior to the intervention deadline of September 12, 2011.
9. At that time, we decided to ask for an extension of the license intervention deadline. As explained in our letter, an extension is necessary for us to undergo the thorough and lengthy review that this process requires. The material, both inside and outside of Strata Energy’s application, is very complex and it takes large amounts of time and resources for nonprofit organizations like ours to review.
10. Since we have not yet decided to file contentions, let alone decided what those contentions would be, a hearing or any other proceeding has not yet started. Therefore, we did not even contemplate the necessity of a motion. We believed that a request for an extension of the intervention deadline would be similar to asking for an extension to a public comment deadline or similar public participation opportunities, especially since a proceeding had not yet been commenced. Therefore, Mr. Fettus and I addressed our request to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission as a letter, not a motion. We did, however, request the establishment of a docket so other parties, including Strata and its designated counsel, would become apprised of our request.
11. As discussed in our letter, and throughout this declaration, an extension of time is necessary to allow our expert consultants and me to engage in a thorough review of the application and relevant outside materials. I have had numerous time constraints over the past two months, including summer vacation, family commitments, and work related obligations. A short extension of the intervention deadline will make a tremendous difference in my organization’s ability to participate in this process.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and that this declaration was executed on August 24, 2011 in Sheridan, Wyoming.

/s/

Shannon R. Anderson

Original, signed version on file with attorney