

November 16, 2012

Mr. Mike McNeill
U.S. Forest Service
District Ranger
Buffalo Gap National Grassland
1801 Hwy 18 Truck Bypass
Hot Springs, SD 57747

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DEWEY-BURDOCK *IN-SITU* RECOVERY PROJECT IN FALL RIVER AND CUSTER COUNTIES, SOUTH DAKOTA, SUPPLEMENT TO THE GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR *IN-SITU* LEACH URANIUM MILLING FACILITIES

Dear Mr. McNeill:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing a source materials license application submitted by Powertech (USA), Inc. for the construction, operation, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning of the proposed Dewey-Burdock *In-Situ* Recovery (ISR) Project. The facility is proposed to be located in Fall River and Custer Counties, South Dakota. The proposed facility, if licensed, would recover uranium by a process known as *In-Situ* recovery.

As part of the review of the application, the NRC has prepared a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) (NUREG-1910, Supplement 4). The draft SEIS includes an analysis of relevant environmental issues and documents the NRC staff's preliminary determination regarding the environmental impacts from the construction, operation, aquifer restoration, and decommissioning of the proposed facility.

The NRC staff is enclosing the draft SEIS for your review and comment. Please provide any information, comments, or concerns you may have on the draft SEIS during the comment period, which ends on January 7, 2013 (or 45 days after the date of publication of the *Federal Register* notice). Comments should be submitted in writing either by mail to Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 (include Docket ID: in the subject line) or on <http://www.regulations.gov> (after November 23, 2012) and search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2012-0277. The NRC staff will address your comments in the final SEIS.

M. McNeill

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Haimanot Yilma, Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-8029, or by e-mail at Haimanot.Yilma@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kevin Hsueh, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 40-9075

Enclosure: Draft SEIS

CC w/enclosure:
Ms. Lynn Kolud
District Ranger
Black Hills National Forest
1019 N. 5th Street
Custer, SD 57730

M. McNeill

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Haimanot Yilma, Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-8029, or by e-mail at Haimanot.Yilma@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hsueh, Chief
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Custer, SD 57730

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