

2013 JAN 17 AM 9:10

RECEIVED

11/26/2012
77FR 70486

January 15, 2013

TO: **Cindy Bladey**

Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch
Office of Administration, MailStop TWB-05-B01M
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

153

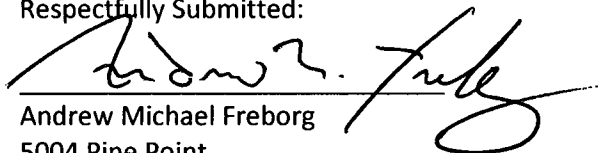
SUBJECT: **Docket ID NRC-2012-0277**

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I object to the proposed uranium mine at Dewey-Burdock in the Black Hills, SD for the following reasons:

- 1) It poses an large and unacceptable risk to groundwater contamination from toxic uranium ore residues.
- 2) The proposed mine operator, PowerTech, has a poor track record of environmental safety and contamination prevention at its other US mining operations – specifically 50+ violations of environmental regulations at Crow Butte, NE.
- 3) PowerTech's repeated objections to US government mandated environmental and safety rules represent a pattern of disregard for US law and dismissive attitude towards safety of our population and care for out land and natural resources.
- 4) Though I hope this is not the case, it seems interesting that such an operation is proposed where the greatest danger would be posed to the nearby Native American population, who have little voice, resources to adequately evaluate risks, little or no chance of any economic benefit, and if long term damage or danger exists, pose a small liability to PowerTech. It pains me to see this possibility, but conscience requires me to state this observation.
- 5) With respect to Item 4 above, a large number of native cultural and historic sites – which have not been properly study – have potential to be harmed, destroyed, or irredeemably contaminated.
- 6) What is the potential impact on wildlife in this "gem" of the American West.
- 7) To what extent does PowerTech's status as a foreign (Canadian) corporate entity shield the business and it managers from legal responsibilities in US jurisdictions – both civil (financially) and criminal? In-situ leach uranium mining typically leaves elevated levels of uranium, radium, and other heavy metals in the aquifer following restoration. In addition, excursions of mining fluids beyond the mining zone are not uncommon, and can continue for months or years despite efforts to correct them by adjusting well pumping rates. Radioactive uranium residue contamination leaching back into these aquifers would prove devastating for the Oglala Lakota, local ranchers, wildlife, and a nearby wild horse sanctuary.

Respectfully Submitted:



Andrew Michael Freborg
5004 Pine Point
Stow, Ohio 44224
330-650-9813

SUNSI Review Complete

Template = ADM – 013

E-RIDS= ADM -03

Add= H.YILM 9 (hxy1)