

11/26/2012

1164 Lookout Lane  
Rapid City, SD 57701

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RULES AND DIRECTIONS  
BRANCH  
USNRC

Cindy Bladey  
Chief of Rules and Directions Branch  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC, 20555-0001  
Docket NRC-2011-0148

Dear Ms. Bladey,

I grew up in the area near the Dewey Burdock and now, as a retired person, live in Rapid City and have a growing concern about many of the issues that still seem to be looming around the proposed uranium mining. The intent of the letter is to comment on two of them and the following is taken from the Supplemental Environmental Impact Study recently released.

The following comes directly from the SEIS:

10. Clarify the exact number and locations of wells.

Background: Staff is uncertain of the total number of wells within 2 kilometers of the project area and whether or not the 26 abandoned wells are a subset of the total. Additionally, NRC staff is uncertain of the number of livestock or domestic wells. The Technical Report Supplement indicated that the applicant has the right to replace three Inyan Kara stock wells (ID#s 17, 49, and 628) prior to initiation of operations. These wells are located within the proposed aquifer exemption area and would be replaced with water wells that are not completed within the proposed zones of operations. Staff notes that there is a fourth well (#61) within the aquifer exemption area and in the middle of the Burdock Wellfield #1. The staff is unsure of the status of this well. Additionally, the application did not clarify the procedure to replace any nearby well.

My concern: The NRC doesn't know the number of wells. Powertech can replace 3 Inyan Kara wells that are not completed within proposed zones of operation. So what does this mean? They will replace wells somewhere and with what assurance that these wells have clean water? There is no stated procedure for how to replace a nearby well. And they don't even know how many to replace. Will these wells be replaced with water drawn from the aquifer and how will it be determined that this water is not contaminated? Why does Powertech get to use this water for free? We are still in a drought and why is it okay for them to continue to draw water from the aquifer? What are the long range environmental impacts of this? How will it affect ranching in this area; not to mention tourism, traffic, way of life?

SUNSI Review Complete  
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**Waste Disposal**

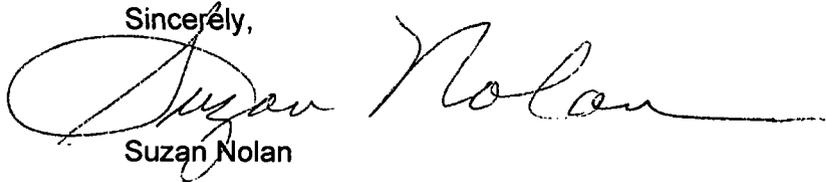
NRC staff stated that basic information regarding the proposed storage and radium settling ponds is needed for our review. This includes soil information, stability analysis and other information addressed in Regulatory Guide 3.11. Also, information addressing 10 CFR 20.2002 requirements regarding deep well disposal is needed.

Powertech stated that deep well disposal in the states of Wyoming and Nebraska is no longer viable. They are still seeking a Class 5 deep well in South Dakota from EPA. Regarding the ponds, Powertech stated that they have additional drawings that were included in a separate report that was not submitted with the NRC application.

Probably of any issue, this one may have the greatest concern to people in my area. How will water that has been polluted by uranium be cleaned and where will it be returned to? According to this statement above, the information addressing deep well disposal is incomplete.

I am very worried and honestly opposed to uranium mining in my area. I believe the health impacts and the long range environmental impacts for the sake of money, and about 86 jobs for a few years is too big for us to proceed. Thus, I am sharing my concerns with you. I will continue to follow these developments closely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzan Nolan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Suzan Nolan