

PETITION LETTER:

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

The uranium mine proposed by Powertech is wrong for South Dakota. Extracting uranium from the ground has far more hazards than benefits, and the health and safety of the Black Hills communities, as well as the surrounding forests, would be at risk.

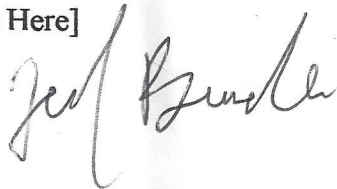
To begin, the large amount of water used by the mine would ensure water shortages for South Dakota's communities. In a state currently suffering from extreme drought, taking 47 billion gallons of water from homes, schools, and small businesses and diverting that water to a mine is not safe or logical. Plus, if the mine were to become operational, the little water that did reach the residents would most likely be contaminated with uranium. There have been serious health risks associated with ingesting uranium and, due to the mine, South Dakota's families would be directly affected.

Furthermore, the mine would be far too close to the Black Hills National Forest. The site of Mount Rushmore, the Black Hills attracts millions of visitors each year and is an important natural, cultural, and historic park for the United States. Uranium mining has been proven to leak radioactive residue into the environment. A mine that is operational for two decades would, without a doubt, expose the plants, animals, and people around Black Hills to dangerous level of radioactive materials.

Please reject Powertech's permit proposal. The health and safety of South Dakota is at risk.

Sincerely,

[Your Name Here]

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Bender". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "B".

# **DON'T LET A FOREIGN CORPORATION USE AND POLLUTE OUR WATER**

- 'In situ' leach uranium mining involves pumping a solution underground into an aquifer, where it loosens uranium from the rock, and then pumping the uranium-bearing solution back to the surface.
- 'In situ' uranium mining contaminates groundwater and surface water with radioactive materials and heavy metals – contamination that remains long after mining ends, and that is dangerous to humans, wildlife, and livestock.
- Groundwater has never been returned to its original condition at any 'in situ' leach uranium mine in the United States.
- Powertech Uranium, a Canadian company that wants to mine northwest of Edgemont, has never mined uranium – or any other natural resource.
- Powertech stock is currently worth 10 cents per share.
- When our water is damaged, there may be no recourse against a foreign company.

## **URANIUM MINING WOULD USE HUGE AMOUNTS OF OUR WATER**

- Powertech has asked the state for a permit to extract 551 gallons of water per minute from the Madison aquifer. They have also applied for a permit to extract 8,500 gallons per minute from the Inyan Kara formation.
- 9,000 gallons per minute equals 12,960,000 gallons per day. Multiply that by 365 days and then by a ten years, and this equals 47 billion gallons of our water. According to the company, the project may last as long as 20 years.
- The company plans to drill a total of 1500 wells into the Inyan Kara formation.
- After it is used for mining, the water that is not consumed or left in the aquifer would be treated in one of two ways:
  - The company prefers to pump it underground—below drinking water sources—where it would no longer be available to communities, ranches, and families.
  - It could be sprayed on the ground, which has created a build-up of toxic materials at other sites.
- Much of the water would be used repeatedly, but it would be contaminated and would not be available for other uses. Our aquifer will never be the same.

## **THIS ISSUE IMPACTS THE ENTIRE BLACK HILLS**

- The uranium-bearing rock formation circles the outer edge of the Black Hills. Exploration has been done from Sturgis to Buffalo Gap and from Hulett south and east to Hot Springs—that we know of.
- At least six uranium companies are currently active in the Black Hills.
- The federal government wants South Dakotans to pay for water from the Missouri River. We live in a semi-arid area, and droughts are a regular occurrence. If this project goes through, we will lose access to critical groundwater resources.
- If Powertech's proposed project goes through, it will re-open the door to uranium mining in the Black Hills.

## **SPEAK UP AND OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL**

- Talk to your state legislators.  
Ask them to support stricter state laws to protect our water resources.
- Call Governor Dennis Daugaard (605-773-3212) and members of Congress now.

## **PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE BLACK HILLS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!**



# **Protect Our Agriculture, Water, Wildlife, Tourism, Health & Property Values!**

## **Learn About ISL (In Situ Leach) Mining!**

1. Read and study the scientific evidence. There is overwhelming and extensive evidence that ISL uranium mining is NOT safe. Every place there is uranium mining; there are water, health and economic problems - permanently.

2. For the best collection of scientific information on "in situ leach" uranium mining from the EPA, NRC, USGS including colored maps, charts, graphs, etc., see this seminal work piece.

>SEE: [www.NRDC.ORG/nuclear/files/uranium-mining-report.PDF](http://www.NRDC.ORG/nuclear/files/uranium-mining-report.PDF)

3. Learn about this Canadian company. A Canadian Penny stock – hedge fund Company that wants to take YOUR water, South Dakota citizens' water.

This website is updated every day including stock prices on the Toronto Stock Exchange SEE: [www.powertechexposed.com](http://www.powertechexposed.com)

Also, Government documents: <http://www.wise-uranium.org/uregusa.html#SDISLREGREGN>

4. For information on Crawford, NE and CAMECO uranium mining and their long list of infractions:

<http://www.wise-uranium.org/umopusa.html#CROWB>

5. Also, [wise-uranium.org](http://www.wise-uranium.org)

6. Use GOOGLE and search scientific information on groundwater, aquifers, uranium

For information on streams, groundwater, aquifers go to:

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121116124557.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop\\_news%2Ftop\\_environment+%28ScienceDaily%3A+T](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121116124557.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop_news%2Ftop_environment+%28ScienceDaily%3A+T)

Use GOOGLE and type PROPUBLICA.COM and search for uranium, aquifers, groundwater

7. Watch videos on You Tube:

Dr. Lillas Jarding: Stop Uranium Mining in the Black Hills

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOPDqJYJexU>

Bruce Ellison: Stop Powertech: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEy2XynETWg>

Charmaine White Face: Stop Powertech:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtUJ\\_zwcjT0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtUJ_zwcjT0)

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Contact: Clean Water Alliance, P.O. Box 591, Rapid City, SD 57709

[www.sdcleanwateralliance.org](http://www.sdcleanwateralliance.org) or [NOBHURANIUM@gmail.com](mailto:NOBHURANIUM@gmail.com)

On Facebook: "Save the Black Hills Community Organization"

OPA



US Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC  
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