



RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC

Fall River Conservation District
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January 14, 2014

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Cindy Bladey, Chief
Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch (RADB)
Office of Administration (NRC)
Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Dewey-Burdock Project In-Situ Uranium Recovery
Project in Custer and Fall River Counties, SD CEQ#: 20120370

Dear Ms. Bladey,

Western South Dakota cannot risk losing any of its precious water sources. Western South Dakota has poor quality ground and surface water, but it's all we have. Large amounts of locals haul water for home and livestock because drilling a well is either not cost effective or impossible with our rock layers. Shallow wells for livestock are common, but quality is very poor. The major source of shallow water wells is the Inyan Kara aquifer. Without those shallow water wells people will be forced to haul water daily to livestock or farmsteads. It is not known how our five aquifers are layered and interconnected. Do we chance contaminating all of them?

The Fall River Conservation District is here to protect our land, water, soil and air. We are concerned the benefits from mining in our geographical area don't out way the risks. From research the office has done, it has not come across any positive information for uranium mining. In situ mining has been proven to work in labs and small test plots, not in large scale mining operations. In fact, most sites have multiple violations and cannot restore original ground water sources. It is a great concern to us and a risk we are not willing to support. Please be advised that all documents explaining the In situ mining process all have a disclaimer that state this process should not be done in or around potable water sources. Dewey-Burdock Project is proposing to do both.

We feel that the affects to above ground resources, soil and surface water will be detrimental. Area wildlife could be harmed. The threat that Angostura Reservoir could become a hazard instead of a profitable and enjoyable recreation location is not an option. We are still dealing with old mining contamination problems and we don't need new ones.

Please think about what you are doing to a barren, arid area that is in need of water on a good year. Please don't take the Black Hills from National Treasure to National Disaster. Thank you for your time and considering the other side.

Sincerely,

Fall River Conservation Board

Archie Collins, Chairman

Mark Keffeler, Supervisor

Vacant, Supervisor

John Sides, Vice Chairman

Dewane Stearns, Supervisor

Julie Tomlinson, District Manager

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CLEAN. CLEAR. CONSERVATION.