

From: [gardnergray](#)
To: [Docket, Hearing](#)
Subject: Powertech, (usa) ISL Application
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 11:54:03 AM

Office of the Secretary
Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in response to your call for comments regarding the ISL mining application from Powertech(usa) in the Dewey Burdock area of western South Dakota. I would add my voice to all of the Contentions but will address only those dealing with the water, namely, Contention 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9.

The USCG has determined that to date there has not been one ISL operation that returned the land and aquifers to a healthy pre-ming baseline. Every single one from the Kingsville Dome in Texas to Crowe Butte in Nebraska to the ranches in Wyoming has contaminated these aquifers, the land and the surface runoff. The NRC does not require remediation any more than "reasonable achievable" which is no protection at all. The NRC also suggests that the contamination at Dewey Burdock will not reach "significant" levels, which is to say that the NRC recognizes that there will indeed be contamination throughout the mining area. The BLM agrees that one main aquifer, the INYAN KARA, will be made unusable. Water levels in the MADISON aquifer which is the main source of water and serves all of the BLack Hills, much of Wyoming and even Montana are drastically reduced due to large mining operations in those areas that use billions of gallons of good water, all of which are becoming or have become contaminated. We all know that we are running out of our precious water and this is no time to be wasting any of it anywhere. Look at India, Russia, China, Australia and the United States. We are all in trouble of losing our water supplies. The Powertech operation will use and abuse hundreds of millions of gallons of perfectly good water. The local geology and earthquake history will almost certainly guarantee migration between/among the aquifers and lead not only to depleted supplies of the MADISON but contamination of all four aquifers to used: MADISON, INYAN KARA, DEADWOOD and MINNELUSA. It will be an unmitigated disaster for the entire area. It will ruin tourism, destroy real estate values and kill local economies and these are but a few of the many other negative effects.

Short of denying the application in toto, I call on you to require complete restoration of the land and waters affected by the mining and proof that it can be accomplished prior to the start of operations. Please address all of these contentions with a firm eye upon the safety and health of the public.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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