

Powertech (USA) Inc.  
Docket No. 40-9075-MLA  
Docketed USNRC  
March 14, 2014  
Office of the Secretary

418 North 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702  
(605) 787-2872  
March 2, 2014

Chairman Allison M. Macfarlane  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16G4  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

Greetings from the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. I am writing you because of issues involved in the matter of the NRC's Docket Number 40-9075-MLA. This is the case of a proposed 'in situ' uranium mine in the Black Hills known as the Dewey-Burdock project. The company involved is Powertech Uranium, which is in the process of merging to become Azarga Uranium, a Chinese company.

NRC staff recently issued a final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Dewey-Burdock project. However, the consultation with tribal governments under the National Historic Preservation Act, which is required before a final SEIS is issued, has not been completed. The company has said that it will begin construction if and when it receives an NRC license, which would immediately and permanently destroy cultural resources. I am very disturbed by the prospect. The NEPA process has been violated, and we need to insure that important cultural resources are protected, as the Black Hills are a sacred region to several Native American tribes.

In my professional opinion, the SEIS is also inadequate. It is largely based on Powertech's application, rather than on the existing scientific research. This research shows that the Dewey-Burdock site is not geologically appropriate for 'in situ' leach mining, which requires complete containment of the radioactive mining process in a confined aquifer. Rather, the site contains 4,000 old exploration boreholes, uneven containment by geological layers, and fractures in the rock due to the formation of the Black Hills.

I ask that the license not be issued until NRC staff properly complete the NEPA process and insure that consultation with tribal governments is completed. This will require issuing a revised SEIS. I respectfully request your assistance in working with NRC staff on this matter.

Please feel free to contact me, if you want more information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Liliias Jarding, Ph.D.

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418 N. 44th Street  
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