

#3181

*Dawes County Commissioners*

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March 11, 2014

Commissioner William D. Magwood, IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16G4  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Commissioner William D. Magwood, IV,

We are writing to thank you for your support of the Nebraska Panhandle and to make you aware of a serious issue facing the school children and local taxpayers of Dawes County. The Crow Butte in situ Uranium mine has for many years represented more than 33% of the taxable value of the Crawford School District total taxable value and about 6.5% of Dawes County total taxable value. Because of declining uranium reserves at the existing site and lengthy federal regulatory delays in the approval of critical expansion sites nearby, our local governments are facing significant declines in revenue.

Standard re-licensing of Crow Butte by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has taken more than seven years and is not yet complete. Based on earlier NRC projections, we expected final action on re-licensing and progress on the expansion sites last year. We are told after more delays that will be later this year. The mine's operator had planned for a smooth transition of reserves from expansion sites that would have kept tax revenue roughly even. Now, we face a significant drop in tax revenue over the next couple of years as the new expansion sites are developed. Further delays would have an even more dramatic effect.

Regarding the Crawford Public Schools, the delays have forced the Superintendent to absorb one full-time position, reduce one full-time teaching position to a half-time position, and contingency plans are being made if further reductions are required (such as instituting a 4 day school week to reduce personnel and operating expenses). In fact, this very topic was presented to the parents of Crawford Public Schools on March 04, 2014.

The Crow Butte mine has been a good neighbor for its 23 years of commercial operation. The mine has established an outstanding record in regard to safety and the environment. It adds \$22 million a year to the local economy. Prior to 2013, it provided much needed jobs for 85 employees and full-time contractors. They are valuable members of our communities, many of them coming from farm families that have been here for generations. We understand that Crow Butte's workforce is currently less than 60, due in part to the continued licensing delays.

We respect the important work of the NRC in reviewing the safety of the operations and in assuring compliance in identifying any relevant Native American cultural and historic sites. We ask only that the licensing process be completed in a predictable and timely manner – one that can be counted on for planning tax revenues and jobs.

We understand that Crow Butte has just learned of a further delay in licensing the critical Marsland expansion site due to lack of staff resources at the NRC. Any assistance you can provide to ensure that the NRC has the resources and focus it needs to complete its work without further delay would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dawes County Board of Commissioners

Handwritten signatures of three individuals: Jake Stewart, Webb L. Johnson, and Stacy Swinney. Each signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line. Below each signature, the name is printed in a standard black font.

Superintendent of Crawford Public Schools

Handwritten signature of Richard Taedter in black ink, positioned above a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Richard Taedter" is printed in a standard black font.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
)  
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC. ) Docket No. 40-8943-MLA-2  
)  
In-Situ Leach Uranium Recovery Facility, ) ASLBP No. 13-926-01-MLA-BD01  
Crawford, Nebraska )  
)  
(License Amendment – )  
Marsland Expansion Area) )

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing **Dawes County Board of Commissioners letter to Commissioner Magwood on delay in Crow Butte relicensing** have been served upon the following persons by Electronic Information Exchange.

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Crow Butte Resources, Inc., Docket No. 40-8943-MLA-2

**Dawes County Board of Commissioners letter to Commissioner Magwood  
on delay in Crow Butte relicensing**

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[Original signed by Brian Newell]  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 17th day of June, 2014