

From: [Bernie Fox](#)
To: [Docket, Hearing](#)
Subject: Strata Energy's pending request....
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 5:47:12 PM

Strata Energy wants to mine uranium in Crook County Wyoming, near Devil's Tower National Monument and Oshoto Reservoir. am opposed to uranium mining for the following reasons:

- NRC's EIS does not accurately assess baseline groundwater conditions at Strata's site. Accurately assessing baseline groundwater conditions is critical to determine future impacts related to uranium recovery operations.
- NRC's EIS is deficient because it does not fully consider that the proposed uranium recovery area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from the early days of uranium exploration. According to NRC's EIS, Strata Energy knows that there are at least 1,682 old exploration wells in the area, but the company has only located less than half of them – 759. And out of that 759, they have successfully plugged only 55. That means there are over 1,600 old wells in the area that could serve as conduits for water contamination from Strata's project (and we know there are likely thousands more). NRC's EIS acknowledges that water contamination could result from "improperly plugged previous exploration drillholes that have not yet been properly abandoned," but then illogically assumes that impacts to water resources will be "small." NRC needs to do a better job at analyzing the risk that these old drillholes – both inside and immediately adjacent to Strata's project area – represent.
- Consider the track record of failed aquifer restoration at previous uranium mines in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Texas. To date, not a single uranium project has fully restored an aquifer to pre-mining water quality. There is no indication that Strata's operations will prevent these impacts, yet NRC ignores them in its draft EIS.

Thank you for consideration of my concerns.

Bernard Fox

