

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC. ,	)	Docket No. 40-8943
	)	ASLBP No. 08-867-02-OLA-BD01
(License Renewal for the	)	
In Situ Leach Facility, Crawford, Nebraska)	)	April 30, 2015

**STATEMENT OF DEBRA WHITE PLUME**

My name is Debra White Plume. I am a founding member and director of Owe Aku, etc.

Owe Aku’s mission is to preserve Lakota culture and ways of life and to seek social justice and human rights for our people, including treaty rights. In my capacity with Owe Aku and as a lifelong resident of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, I have direct personal knowledge about the living conditions throughout the Reservation.

Our Pine Ridge Homelands has 85% unemployment, the highest suicide rate in America, lacks basic housing needs for 4,000 families, 90% of our children live at or under the poverty level. President Obama has recently declared our Homelands a “Promise Zone”.

All over the reservation, we have to hook up to the Rural Water Supply System, funded by the United States to pipe in drinking water from the Missouri River at Pierre, SD because our ground water tests reveal high amounts of radioactivity and arsenic and other contaminants.

Our tribal members used to be able to make use of the White River, fishing in it, watering horses and cattle, and for crop irrigation. Now, most people are leery of it due to contamination and low flow.

Tribal members who learn that their water source is contaminated are often unable to afford bottled water so are they likely to drink it anyway. It is difficult for tribal members to drive to grocery stores or other sources of bottled water, I live a ten mile

round trip from the nearest store, 180 miles from the nearest shopping center. I drink well water from the Ogllala Aquifer, as the Rural Water Supply System is no longer funded by Congress and there are currently 400 homes on the waiting list.

I am concerned that our people, as the last remaining Oglala Lakota people on Mother Earth are suffering from the lack of environmental justice by being surrounded by uranium mines by Cameco to the south and the west and abandoned uranium mines to the north, and that we face extermination as a people from this condition. This area is dependent on the Ogllala Aquifer for drinking water, we are in drought conditions already and to risk the groundwater contamination for an endangered people can be genocidal.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 22.304(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra L. White Plume". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Debra White Plume