

**From:** [Becky McMillen](#)  
**To:** [Sciretta, Nicholas](#); [Desai, Sachin](#); [Docket, Hearing](#)  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Letter of concern for the NRC hearings in Crawford  
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To: nicholas.sciretta@nrc.gov  
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August 28, 2015

Dear Sirs,

I am a long-time western Nebraska resident. I live 75 miles from the uranium mines in Crawford but I have heritage ties to the city of Crawford and the beautiful land that surrounds it. My father was born there and his father was a "street shoe cowboy" at the nearby remount depot, Fort Robinson. As a Nebraskan and particularly a Western Nebraskan I am concerned about the contamination of our water.

I attended two days of the ALB, Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearing at Crawford. I would have liked to have attended all of the hearings but was unable to do so because of work duties. I have tried to educate myself about this process. I do understand that your decisions are likely based on science and facts. As a citizen of this state, country and planet I believe the human element should be considered and should perhaps carry more weight than the opinions of hydrologists and geologists who seem to seldom agree on what the actual scientific facts are. We as humans should have a seat at the table when decisions are made that will affect us and generations to come.

From my perspective some of facts presented may be flawed by the regulatory capture that seems to be present in this industry and indeed in many other energy extraction industries. I was dismayed at the arrogance displayed by the NRC witnesses and even blatant disrespect toward questions posed by judges and facts presented by intervening expert witnesses. I'm afraid that such behavior from those whose charge is to protect us is somewhat unsettling.

On several occasions, it was clear that only minimum standards were being considered when decisions were made. I saw no evidence to suggest that the health of residents was the first consideration. In fact several times expense was cited as a reason for omitting testing for actual uranium. From my perspective expense should be the last excuse for failing to adequately protect the public to whom the natural resources actually belong. I'm also concerned that health effects from the spills and excursions that have already happened was downplayed. I heard little in the way of explanation for the long list of violations. I expected to hear more details about the 2 1/2 year leak that contaminated nearby water supplies. People in the immediate area as well as nearby populations Native Americans are suffering and dying. That should be our first concern and after sitting through two days of technical testimony it is clear to me that those issues are not even on the radar of the NRC.

I would take this opportunity to urge you to deny expansion, revoke permitting and

begin the process of shutting down the Cameco mine in Nebraska. Any other decision is unacceptable. We should be reclaiming useable uranium from stores of nuclear waste, not creating more. As far as I'm concerned closing the uranium mines is a matter of national security. Our responsibility is to future generations, not with corporations who sell our resources and our health on the open market.

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