

StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

From: Aliyah Keuthan <kestreldancing@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2016 5:21 PM
To: StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender]

In reference to: Docket ID NRC-2011-0148

To the NRC, I am writing to ask you to please

- Consider that the proposed uranium mining and processing area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from the early days of uranium exploration. Thanks to our efforts, the NRC has been requiring Strata to locate and plug these old exploration wells prior to mining, but there are still concerns. This license condition MUST be applied to the expansion project because old wells in the area could serve as conduits for water contamination from Strata's project. NRC has identified that water contamination could result from "improperly plugged previous exploration drillholes that have not yet been properly abandoned." 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 that the proposed mining and processing process has an extremely high consumptive use of water, which has the potential to draw down the aquifers that provide drinking water and water for livestock.
- Consider the track record of spills, excursions, pond leaks, and failed aquifer restoration at previous uranium mines in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Texas. Impacts of past uranium projects have been significant – with routine spills, leaks, and excursions of chemicals into adjacent aquifers. 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.
- Consider the cumulative impacts to water quality and quantity from the full scope of Strata's whole project, which includes this first permitted site of the Ross Project with an anticipated four additional projects in the approximately twenty mile area of the "Lance District" in Crook County. Strata should not be allowed to expand until Powder River Basin Resource Council's appeal for the Ross Project is settled
- Minimize light pollution and other industrial impacts to landowners in the Oshoto area and to Devil's Tower National Monument.
- Minimize impacts to livestock grazing and recreation in the area.
- Minimize impacts from truck traffic, dust, and noise.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these extremely relevant points. I urge you to go above and beyond and do what it takes to preserve our national heritage of special Native American and important ecological sites.

Sincerely,
Aliyah Keuthan MSAD

Federal Register Notice: 81FR1243
Comment Number: 23

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Subject: [External_Sender]
Sent Date: 4/16/2016 5:21:15 PM
Received Date: 4/16/2016 5:21:50 PM
From: Aliyah Keuthan

Created By: kestrel dancing@gmail.com

Recipients:
"StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource" <KendrickSEIS@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: mail.gmail.com

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	2482	4/16/2016 5:21:50 PM

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Priority: Standard
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