

## StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

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**From:** Joanna Taylor <jonie\_gma@yahoo.com>  
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Protect water resources during Uranium mining

The proposed uranium mining and processing area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from the early days of uranium exploration. 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

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.

The track record of spills, excursions, pond leaks, and failed aquifer restoration at previous uranium mines in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Texas 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.

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