

StrataRossKenExSEISCEm Resource

From: Burntswamp <burnt.swamp@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2016 10:43 AM
To: StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Docket ID NRC-2011-0148

Dear NRC,

This is a formal letter (email) indicating the following must be taken into consideration and respected in their entirety:

- 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.
- 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 following has been factored into process: 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.
- No light pollution and other industrial impacts to landowners in the Oshoto area and to Devil's Tower National Monument are permitted.
- No impacts to livestock grazing and recreation in the area.
- No impacts from truck traffic, dust, and noise.
- Indigenous peoples and their respective First Nations' free, prior and informed consent have been met.
- All treaties have been respected in their entirety.
- No desecration of any sacred site will be either directly or indirectly harmed.

- There will be no adverse effects to the cultural integrity of Indigenous peoples' traditional lands, treaty lands, and sacred sites.
- All aspects of the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples have been factored into this process and every human right accorded to Native Americans has been respected.

Thank you.

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