

StrataRossKenExSEISCEM Resource

From: James Jones <jamesj@hughes.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:44 PM
To: StrataRossKenExSEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Docket ID NRC-2011-0148

Thank you for the public comment option. I am extremely concerned about the expansion of Strata Energy's ISL uranium site.

I do not feel that this expansion is in the best interest of our county. The negative impacts cannot be overlooked in making this decision.

I would like to ask the NRC to review the following before deciding to approve this expansion:

- Consider that the proposed uranium mining and processing area has over 5,000 abandoned drill holes from the early days of uranium exploration, that have been improperly abandoned, and therefore could definitely serve as conduits for water contamination between adjacent aquifers. Thankfully the NRC has been requiring Strata to locate and plug these old exploration wells prior to mining the Ross area, but it will be impossible to do this in such a large area of expansion. At the very least, this license condition MUST be applied to the expansion project in some effort to contain the contaminated water from the project.
- 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. There have been adjacent landowners who have mentioned that they already have springs that have dried up since the Ross project started, so there is a good possibility that the mining process could have had something to do with this.
- 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. Increasing the area of mining will only increase the potential for more spills, excursions, pond leaks, and failed aquifer restoration.
- Consider the cumulative impacts to water quality and quantity from the full scope of Strata's whole project.
- Consider that Strata should not be allowed to expand until Powder River Basin Resource Council's appeal for the Ross Project is settled.
- Consider that negative impacts to livestock grazing and recreation in the area will be amplified by this proposed expansion.
- Consider that increasing the size of the mining area will amplify other negative impacts, such as truck traffic, dust, and noise.

Jim Jones
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Comment Number: 44

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