



POWERTECH/AZARGA URANIUM WITHHOLDS KEY INFORMATION

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On July 16, 2014, Powertech/Azarga announced that it had entered a May 9 agreement to obtain new information on the geology at its proposed Dewey-Burdock mine site in Custer and Fall River Counties. This was just a month after it received its license to handle radioactive materials from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on April 8. This new information was not included in the documents that the company used in its application to the NRC or in the agency's Environmental Impact Statement.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will be holding a public input session and a hearing on the company's license on August 18-21. On Wednesday, August 6, the ASLB told the company to produce the new information, which may provide key facts about the safety of mining in a geological zone that typically has fractures, faults, and other formations that could allow dangerous mining fluids to escape into the surrounding groundwater. The ASLB called the information "relevant" and said that it is subject to "mandatory disclosure."

Yesterday, Powertech/Azarga objected to making this key information public, saying it is not relevant to the ASLB proceeding.

"Of course information on the rock formations that the company wants to mine is relevant to the risks we face if Powertech/Azarga is allowed to mine directly in our groundwater aquifers," said Lilias Jarding of the Clean Water Alliance. "The public, the parties, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have a most basic right to know what the company knows. And the fact that the company

is balking at producing this information – and that the information became available directly **after** the license was issued -- is highly suspicious.”

Clean Water Alliance supports the ASLB’s request that the company make all the information it is withholding public immediately.

The Clean Water Alliance is a diverse collection of citizens concerned about the health, environmental, and economic impacts that proposed uranium mining projects would have on our communities, people, economy, and natural resources. Our goal is to prevent uranium mining in the Black Hills region, and to protect our valuable resources for future generations. For more information, see our website at www.bhcleanwateralliance.org or our Facebook page at Black Hills Clean Water Alliance.