



## CUSTER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

February 13, 2013

Eric Holm  
Natural Resource Engineer III  
Minerals and Mining Program  
Joe Foss Building  
523 E Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

Dear Mr. Holm,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Powertech's LSM application to extract uranium in the Dewey area of Custer County. We, as the Custer County Conservation Board, have several questions concerning the land reclamation plan and the land application plan.

#### Land Reclamation Plan

- Timing and methodology for reclaiming all exploration drill holes? What species will be planted and what will the soil material be?
- Timing and species being used to stabilize the topsoil piles? Also what is the quantity of soil in each of the stockpiles?
- Will all locations be reseeded with the single seed mix, irregardless of post mining soil analysis?
- The soil analyses indicate areas of high pH, high conductivity and SAR values that indicate potential problems. Will these soils be identified during the topsoil stripping process?

#### Land Application Plan

- We note that much of the surface water analysis shows high salt content indicating that surrounding soils also are saline.
- Water from the deep wells also indicate properties that would make reclamation more difficult.
- The areas that Land Application Exhibits showing where the excess water will be applied has soils that are thin and on the heavy texture side of the triangle.
- We are concerned that there will be a buildup of salts in the soil profile and make revegetation unsuccessful.
- If indicated through analysis will more appropriate species and soil amendments be applied to help ensure long term land use.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paul Nettinga in cursive script.

Paul Nettinga-Chairman  
Custer County Conservation District  
447 Crook St  
Custer, South Dakota 57730

CC: Dave Hazeltine, Custer County Commissioner/Conservation District Liaison