

July 5, 2013

SD Department of Natural Resources
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED
JUL 08 2013
MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

Dear DENR Officials and Staff:

Enclosed please find a Resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the South Dakota Chapter of the Sierra Club regarding Powertech Uranium Corporation's proposed Dewey-Burdock mining project. As the agency charged with regulating and protecting our state's environment and natural resources, we ask that you include our resolution as part of the permanent record of proceedings regarding Powertech's application for mining and water permits. But more important, we ask that you acknowledge the history of uranium exploitation and contamination in South Dakota, that you base proceedings and decisions on sound science, and that your department act as good stewards of the land and water resources that future generations of South Dakotans will inherit.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO POWERTECH'S PROPOSED DEWEY-BURDOCK URANIUM MINE

WHEREAS, according to a DENR water expert, the geology of the southern Black Hills consists of stepped rock layers sandwiching shale between and likely water connections between rock layers,

AND WHEREAS the Inya Kara aquifer that Powertech is exploring and the Minnelusa and Madison aquifers that underlie it, all vital to future life in the region, are according to a study by three SD School of Mines and Technology researchers, "extremely vulnerable to contamination,"

AND WHEREAS western South Dakota has endured a long history of uranium mining, including 263 abandoned uranium mines, prospects and claims according to the DENR website, from many of which the land was not reclaimed and from which tailings have eroded and migrated with water and wind for decades, and from which neither the Nuclear Regulatory Commission nor the SD DENR has protected the state's land, water, or private property interests,

AND WHEREAS, like many uranium and gold mining companies that have declared bankruptcy or left the state once they have taken our resources, Powertech Inc. is financially very weak, its stock having declined in value from \$4.45 per share in 2007 to 6 cents per share on May 3, 2013, raising serious questions about whether Powertech would be able to fulfill any promises it might make, and creating the likelihood that taxpayers at the state and/or federal level would be stuck with the bill for any cleanup that occurs,

AND WHEREAS hundreds of Black Hills residents oppose this new threat to their water, environment and way of life, including to the growing tourist industry and the jobs it creates,

THEREFORE, the Executive Committee of the South Dakota Chapter of the Sierra Club appeals to the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment and the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources to deny water use and mining permits to Powertech Uranium Inc.

For the Executive Committee, South Dakota Chapter of the Sierra Club,



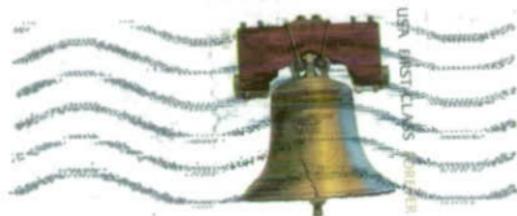
Dr. James Heisinger, USD Professor Emeritus of Biology, Chairman



James Heisinger
2118 Old Bridge Rd.
Vermillion, SD 57069-6986

SIOLN FALLS SD 570

05 JUN 2013 PM 2 1



S.D. Department of Natural Resources
523 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57069

57501318299

