

**NOTICE OF HEARING
APPLICATION FOR LARGE SCALE MINE PERMIT
POWERTECH (USA) INC.'S DEWEY-BURDOCK PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources has received a large scale mining permit application from Powertech (USA) Inc., PO Box 812, Edgemont, South Dakota 57735, for its proposed Dewey-Burdock Project, a uranium in situ recovery mining operation. Powertech (USA) Inc.'s resident agent is CT Corporation System, 319 South Coteau Street, Pierre, South Dakota 57501. The primary minerals to be mined are uranium and vanadium.

The legal location of the proposed operation is:

E1/2 NE1/4, E1/2 SE1/4, SW1/4 SE1/4, S1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4, SE1/4 SW1/4, and S1/2 NE1/4 SW1/4 Section 20; W1/2, W1/2 W1/2 NE1/4, and W1/2 NW1/4 SE1/4 Section 21; S1/2 Section 27; N1/2 NW1/4, SW1/4 NW1/4, and SW1/4 Section 28; Section 29; Section 30; E1/2 Section 31; Section 32; NW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4, and S1/2 NE1/4 Section 33; Section 34; and Section 35; T6S-R1E, Custer County

Section 1; Section 2; Section 3; W1/2 W1/2 Section 4; Section 5; Section 10; Section 11; Section 12; NW1/4, W1/2 NE1/4, and NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 14; and N1/2 Section 15; T7S-R1E, Fall River County

General Location: Approximately 13 miles northwest of Edgemont, South Dakota

The proposed mining operation will involve in situ recovery methods. Powertech will use injection wells to pump groundwater fortified with oxygen and carbon dioxide water into ore deposits to dissolve uranium. Production wells will be used to pump the uranium-laden fluids to the surface for recovery. The fluids from the production wells will be processed at two separate facilities at the mine site to extract and concentrate the uranium. Powertech may also recover vanadium in the future which will require additional processing equipment. After uranium has been removed from a well field, the groundwater will be restored to meet water quality standards. Wastewater generated by the operation will be treated and disposed primarily by injection in Class V injection wells permitted through the EPA Underground Injection Control Program. If there is not sufficient capacity in the Class V wells, the excess wastewater may be disposed by land application permitted by a DENR Groundwater Discharge Plan. The proposed post-mining land uses are rangeland and agricultural or horticultural crops.

The total acreage within the proposed permit boundary is about 10,580 acres, mostly on private land. About 240 acres of BLM land are included in the permit boundary. Powertech proposes to affect 2,528 to 3,792 acres depending upon whether primary deep injection or secondary land application is used for wastewater disposal. Estimated production is one million pounds of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) per year. Estimated duration of the operation is 20 years.

In accordance with SDCL 45-6B and SDCL 1-26, a hearing on the issuance of the permit will take place before the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment on September 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. MDT on September 23 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, 2111 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, South Dakota. On September 27, 2013, the hearing will move to the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, 444 N. Mt. Rushmore Road, Rapid City, South Dakota. If necessary to complete the hearing, the Board will reconvene on November 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. MST on November 11 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, 2111 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, South Dakota. On November 15, 2013, the hearing will move to the Hilton Garden Inn, 815 E. Mall Drive, Rapid City, South Dakota.

The Board's action will be either to approve or disapprove the permit application. This hearing is an adversary proceeding. In accordance with ARSD 74:29:01:09, individuals that have become party to the proceeding have the following rights at the hearing: to be present, to be represented by a lawyer. Individuals may represent themselves at the hearing; organizations must be represented by a lawyer. These and other due process rights will be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. The decision, based on the hearing, may be appealed to the circuit court and the State Supreme Court as provided by law.

If the amount of controversy exceeds two thousand five hundred dollars or if a property right may be terminated, any party to the contested case may require the agency to use the Office of Hearing Examiners by giving notice of the request to the agency no later than ten days after service of a notice of hearing issued pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17.

Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in physically accessible locations. Please notify the Department of Environment and Natural Resources at least 48 hours before the public hearing if you have a disability for which special arrangements must be made at the hearing. The telephone number for making special arrangements is (605) 773-4201.

Persons desiring further information may contact Mike Cepak, Minerals and Mining Program, at (605) 773-4201.

Steven M. Pirner
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources