

SUMMARY DOCUMENT
POWERTECH (USA) INC.
MINE PERMIT APPLICATION
IN SITU URANIUM MINING PROJECT

Pursuant to ARSD 74:29:01:10, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in consultation with Powertech, has prepared a summary document for the mine permit application for Powertech's proposed in situ uranium mining project.

Applicant: Powertech (USA), Inc.
PO Box 812
Edgemont, South Dakota 57735

Type of Mining: Large scale in situ leach operation for uranium and vanadium

Legal Description: 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

Local Contact: Mark Hollenbeck, Project Manager, Powertech

Background:

On October 1, 2012, the Minerals and Mining Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources received a large scale mine permit application from Powertech (USA), Inc. for its proposed Dewey-Burdock Project, a uranium in situ recovery mining operation approximately 13 miles northwest of Edgemont, South Dakota. Powertech (USA) is the U.S.-based wholly owned subsidiary of Powertech Uranium Corporation, a corporation registered in British Columbia. Powertech Uranium Corporation owns 100 percent of the shares of Powertech (USA). The corporate office of Powertech Uranium Corporation is located in Vancouver, British Columbia. Powertech (USA) is a U.S.-based corporation incorporated in the State of South Dakota.

With Powertech's submission of supplemental information, the department notified the company on January 16, 2013 that the application was procedurally complete.

Operating Plan:

The proposed mining operation will involve in situ recovery methods. Topsoil will be salvaged from all disturbed areas prior to disturbance. Powertech will install a series of injection wells to pump groundwater fortified with oxygen and carbon dioxide into ore deposits to dissolve uranium. The ore deposits are located within the Fall River Formation and the Chilson member of the Lakota Formation of the Inyan Kara Group. Production wells will be used to pump the uranium-laden fluids to the surface, where the uranium will be extracted and concentrated via ion exchange at two separate facilities at the mine site. 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 by injection in Class V injection wells permitted through the EPA Underground Injection Control Program, or disposed by land application permitted by a DENR Groundwater Discharge Permit. Land application may also be used in conjunction with the Class V injection wells.

Monitoring systems will be implemented to minimize potential impacts to the environment and public health. These include extensive groundwater monitoring, including the establishment of a perimeter monitor well ring around each well field and monitoring overlying and underlying aquifers to identify any unintended movement of ISR solutions. It also includes instrumentation and control systems to rapidly detect any potential pipeline leaks or spills.

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 deep well injection or 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 project, including construction, operation, groundwater restoration, and reclamation/decommissioning, is 20 years.

Facilities. The eastern portion of the permit area is the Burdock area which will consist of ten potential well fields and a central processing plant. The western portion of the permit area is the Dewey area which will consist of four potential well fields and a satellite processing facility which will recover uranium from the Dewey well fields. The central processing plant in the Burdock area will process uranium from uranium-loaded resins from the Dewey Satellite Plant as well as the Burdock well fields.

The central processing and satellite plants will be accessed by primary access roads from the South Dewey Road (County Road 6463) approximately 28 to 32 feet wide. Secondary access roads used for the transportation of personnel and equipment within the permit area will be approximately 15 to 24 feet wide due to lower traffic demands as compared to the primary access roads. Light use roads, which will essentially be non-constructed, two-track trails or existing ranch or private roads established by previous landowners, will be used to access monitoring sites using light trucks or other passenger vehicles.

Reclamation:

Reclamation Goal. The proposed postmining land use for the affected area is a mixture of rangeland and agriculture or horticultural crops. All but two acres will be reclaimed to rangeland. The current predominant land use within the permit area is rangeland for cattle and a few horses. Approximately 390 acres of land (including the two acres mentioned above) are irrigated for hay production along Beaver Creek.

Interim Reclamation Plans. Powertech plans to conduct interim reclamation on areas such as well fields, pipelines, and buried power lines. In these areas, topsoil will be stripped and stockpiled temporarily while the facilities are constructed. The topsoil will be replaced after any necessary grading at an approximate 1:1 ratio in the area from which it was stripped when the construction in the area is complete. Following topsoil replacement, the areas will be seeded with the final reclamation seed mix. When these facilities are removed during final reclamation, the topsoil will again be stripped, stockpiled temporarily, and replaced after final grading and prior to seeding.

Concurrent and Final Reclamation Plans. Powertech will conduct final reclamation concurrently during all phases of the mining operation. Due to the nature of uranium in situ mining, there will be very few construction activities that will require significant grading or contouring during final reclamation. Disturbed areas will be contoured to blend in with the natural terrain, and postmining contours will be approximately the same as premining contours. Process ponds will be backfilled after removing pond liners and leak detection systems and prior to final grading. Access roads will be reclaimed by removing imported road surfacing material and ripping road surfaces and shallow subsoil to loosen the subsoil. Culverts will be removed and premining drainages re-established. Topsoil will then be redistributed at approximately a 1:1 ratio from the area from which it was stripped to ensure that sufficient topsoil will be available for final reclamation. The areas reclaimed to rangeland will be seeded with the approved seed mix, and the areas reclaimed to agricultural or horticultural crops will be seeded with alfalfa.

It is anticipated that groundwater restoration, including stability monitoring, will be completed for each well field in less than 2 years. In the deep disposal well option, reverse osmosis (RO) treatment with permeate injection will be the primary restoration method. If land application is used, then groundwater sweep with injection of clean makeup water from the Madison Limestone or another suitable formation will be used to restore the aquifer. In either case, groundwater restoration will be conducted in accordance with NRC license requirements. Decontamination, decommissioning, and surface reclamation will follow after regulatory approval of successful groundwater restoration. Wells will be plugged with bentonite or cement grout.

Reclamation Costs. In its mine permit application, Powertech estimated the total reclamation costs for the first two well fields, including the central and satellite processing plants, to be \$7,968,594 for the deep well disposal option and \$9,124,861 for the land application option. A phased bond approach for the reclamation bond is proposed, in which bonding for additional well fields would be submitted prior to construction of the new well fields. The reclamation bond for the proposed mine will be independently calculated by the NRC with input from the department as defined in a

pending memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two agencies. The NRC will hold the entire reclamation bond. Other bonds will be required by EPA and BLM.

At this time, the department has not made a determination on a spill bond or a postclosure bond which are outside the jurisdiction of the NRC.

Environmental Concerns:

Ground Water: The main environmental concern associated with the proposed project is the potential for impacts to ground water both within and outside the proposed mining area. These potential impacts and Powertech's plans to mitigate the impacts are as follows:

Ground Water Consumption: Powertech submitted two applications to obtain water right permits. One application would allow the company to use ground water from the Inyan Kara aquifer to extract uranium ore from the Inyan Kara Group using in situ recovery. During uranium recovery, Powertech plans to pump and recirculate up to 8,000 gpm from the Inyan Kara aquifer. However, with a typical production bleed rate of 0.875 percent, the net production withdrawal from the aquifer will typically be up to 70 gpm. During aquifer restoration, Powertech proposes to pump up to 500 gpm from the Inyan Kara aquifer. The restoration bleed will vary from about 1% to 17% or 5 to 85 gpm which will recover additional solutions and draw a greater influx of water into the ore zone from the surrounding Inyan Kara aquifer. Increased bleed during restoration is known as groundwater sweep.

The other application would allow Powertech to use water from the Madison aquifer for aquifer restoration following completion of mining operations and possibly to supply facility operations and domestic and livestock water to local ranchers. The anticipated typical water consumption from the Madison Limestone includes approximately 12 gpm for the central processing plant plus aquifer restoration water. In the deep disposal well option, the water withdrawn from the well fields will be treated with RO, and resulting permeate will be reinjected along with Madison Limestone water into the well fields. Based on an estimated permeate recovery rate of 70%, the Madison Limestone requirement will be 65 to 145 gpm at 17% and 1% aquifer restoration bleed, respectively.

In the land application option, all of the water withdrawn during aquifer restoration will be treated and disposed. The water will be replaced with water from the Madison Limestone or another suitable aquifer except for the restoration bleed, which will vary from 1% to 17%. Since the aquifer restoration pumping rate will be a maximum of 500 gpm, up to 415 to 495 gpm from the Madison Limestone will be reinjected into well fields undergoing aquifer restoration.

Modeling developed by Powertech shows that potential drawdown impacts in the Inyan Kara aquifer will be short-lived, with recovery to within 1 to 2 feet of pre-operation recovery levels within one year after the end of ISR operations. Modeling of the Inyan Kara aquifer and a flow net analysis of the Madison aquifer demonstrate that Inyan Kara and Madison water is available for the proposed uses and the proposed diversions can be developed without unlawful impairment of existing rights.

Ground Water Quality Impacts: There is potential for impacts to ground water quality in the ore zone, in the aquifers surrounding the ore zone, in overlying and underlying aquifers, and in the alluvium. In the ore zone, some degradation of water quality is possible due to the interaction of the lixiviant with the mineral and chemical constituents of the aquifer which will result in an increase in trace elements and salinity during uranium recovery operations. During aquifer restoration, Powertech will restore groundwater quality consistent with NRC license conditions, the primary restoration goals being baseline water quality or an EPA-established maximum contaminant level (MCL), whichever is higher, on a parameter-by-parameter basis, or an alternate concentration limit (ACL). An ACL is a site-specific, constituent-specific, risk-based standard approved by NRC that demonstrates that maintaining groundwater quality at the requested level will be adequately protective of human health and the environment and that groundwater quality outside of the aquifer exemption boundary approved by EPA would meet background (baseline) levels or MCLs. Therefore, the potential impacts to ore zone groundwater quality will be temporary and will end with NRC approval of successful aquifer restoration in each well field.

Horizontal excursions of in situ recovery solution have the potential to contaminate groundwater horizontally outside of the ore zone. Powertech plans to take steps to prevent excursions during the mining operation. Before in situ operations begin, Powertech will properly construct and test wells prior to use, further characterize the zones of mineralization and identify the target completion zones for all monitor wells, and conduct pre-operational pumping tests with monitoring systems in place to obtain a detailed understanding of the local hydrogeology and to demonstrate the adequacy of the monitoring system. During in situ operations, an extensive monitoring system will be implemented to ensure that potential excursions are rapidly detected and corrected. Powertech will also maintain a cone of depression to prevent solutions from migrating away from the mining areas. This will be done by continuous monitoring of flow and pressures in production and injection wells, frequent monitoring of water levels and water quality in monitoring wells, and adjusting flow rates and pressures in the event an excursion is detected. Generally speaking, more water will be pumped out of the aquifer than into it. This extra water is the bleed water. This slight over pumping the aquifer draws the water towards the production well and helps confine the mining solutions to the well field area.

If an excursion is discovered, Powertech will adjust the flow rates of the production and injection wells to increase the aquifer bleed in the area of the excursion and terminate injection into the portion of the well field affected by the excursion. Additional efforts may also include installing pumps in injection wells in the portion of the well field affected by the excursion or install new pumping wells adjacent to the well on excursion status to retrieve in situ recovery solutions. Any potential impacts from an excursion to Inyan Kara groundwater quality outside of the ore zone is not likely and would be expected to be brief and localized if occurring.

Also, potential impacts to overlying or underlying aquifers could occur from a vertical excursion of in situ recovery solution. An extensive monitoring system and mechanical integrity testing (MIT) program will be implemented to prevent vertical excursions and to provide rapid detection and corrective action in the event of a vertical excursion. Additional monitor wells will be installed within overlying and underlying hydrogeologic units. Pre-operational pump testing will demonstrate vertical confinement and hydraulic isolation between the production zone and

overlying and underlying units prior to mining. Potential impacts to overlying or underlying aquifers are expected to be unlikely and to be brief and localized if occurring.

The primary potential impact to alluvial water quality would be a pipeline leak or spill. Well field features such as header houses, well heads or pipelines could contribute to pollution in the unlikely event of a release of in situ recovery solution due to pipeline or well failure. Potential impacts will be minimized by routine MIT of all injection, production and monitor wells and hydrostatic leak testing of all pipelines during construction, implementing an instrumentation and control system to monitor pressure and flow and immediately detect and correct an anomalous condition, and implementing a spill response and cleanup program in accordance with NRC license requirements and DENR permit conditions.

Process Ponds: A pond leak would have the potential to impact ground water in the vicinity of the pond. The risk and potential impacts will be minimized by natural conditions that make potential groundwater impacts unlikely, by the design and construction of liners and leak detection systems, and by routine inspection and monitoring. Natural conditions make it highly unlikely that a leaking pond would impact groundwater. In the Burdock area, the ponds will be underlain by approximately 50 to 100 feet of Graneros Group shales. The thickness of the Graneros Group beneath the Dewey area ponds will be approximately 500 feet. The confining properties of the Graneros Group will minimize the potential for vertical migration of solutions from a potential pond leak into groundwater.

Pond designs include lining systems that will vary according to the pond use. At a minimum, ponds will be covered with a geosynthetic liner underlain by a clay liner. Ponds containing untreated wastewater or ponds used in the treatment process (e.g., radium settling ponds) will be provided with two geosynthetic liners, a clay liner, and a leak detection system. Routine inspections include daily checks for water accumulation in leak detection systems. The potential impacts from a primary liner leak will be minimized by implementing standard operating procedures to take the pond out of use and remove its contents to another pond. Sufficient freeboard will be maintained in each type of pond such that the contents of a leaking pond can be transferred to another pond with the same level of lining system.

Land Application: Powertech will operate the proposed land application systems in accordance with an approved ground water discharge permit in order to protect ground water quality in accordance with South Dakota water quality standards. Mitigation measures to protect groundwater quality in the land application areas include implementing an extensive land application monitoring system that includes compliance wells, intermediate wells and vadose zone monitoring, siting land application areas at locations where natural conditions make it unlikely that land application water will reach alluvial groundwater, applying land application water at controlled agronomic rates, and treating land application water to remove radionuclides. These mitigation measures will ensure compliance with groundwater quality standards in and around the land application areas during and after in situ operations and during reclamation.

Surface Water: Powertech will comply with South Dakota surface water quality standards for surface water sites during and after in situ recovery operations and during reclamation. Potential surface water impacts include increased sediment load due to surface disturbance, very limited

stream channel disturbance, potential encroachment on wetlands, and potential water quality impacts from leaks or spills.

Construction activities within the well fields, along the pipeline corridors and roads, and at the central processing and satellite facilities have the potential to increase the sediment yield of the disturbed areas. The potential impacts will be minimal due to the relatively small size of the disturbance areas relative to the watershed areas and due to the implementation of the sediment control plan. The plan will be implemented during and after in situ recovery operations to reduce soil loss within the permit area. Ditches, diversions, sediment traps/ponds, culverts, and other best management practices (BMPs) will be used to control surface water flow within the permit boundary. To mitigate soil loss Powertech will minimize the surface disturbance to soil and vegetation by using existing roads where possible, limiting secondary and tertiary road widths, and locating access roads adjacent to utility corridors. Powertech also will limit the sediment mobility by reseeding disturbed areas as soon as possible. Sediment control structures will be most critical while the well fields are being constructed and immediately after redistributing topsoil.

Powertech has evaluated flood inundation boundaries and will construct facilities outside of these boundaries to avoid potential impacts to facilities from flooding and to stream channels. Some facilities must be located within stream channels, such as pipeline corridors and access roads. These will cross the stream channels perpendicular to the flow direction to minimize disturbance. Culverts will be installed in primary and secondary access road stream channel crossings. Ephemeral stream channels also will be disturbed temporarily at the upstream and downstream ends of the diversion channels. To a limited extent, access roads will be constructed within the cottonwood gallery riparian zone. Most of these roads will be light-use roads (tertiary access roads), or non-constructed, two-track trails. To the extent possible, existing two-track roads will be used. The route for any new light-use roads that will be required within the cottonwood gallery riparian zone will be selected to minimize impacts to the riparian zone and to minimize erosion.

The majority of the potential wetlands in the permit area occur along Beaver Creek and Pass Creek. All potential well fields are located away from Beaver Creek and Pass Creek, and potential wetlands along Beaver Creek and Pass Creek will not be impacted by construction activities. The remaining potential wetlands are dispersed throughout the permit area as small depressions and ponds, historical mine pits, and an area around a flowing artesian well. The wetlands within the historical mine pits are not planned to be disturbed. There may be some encroachment impacts to small, depressional wetland areas. Construction, operation, or reclamation activities, which cause disturbance or impacts to jurisdictional wetlands, will be performed in accordance with appropriate Nationwide Permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, if applicable.

Well field features such as header houses, well heads or pipelines could contribute to pollution in the unlikely event of a release of in situ recovery solution due to pipeline or well failure. Potential impacts will be minimized by performing leak testing on all pipelines and aboveground piping systems, equipping well field header houses with wet alarms for early detection of leaks, implementing engineering and administrative controls at the plants to prevent surface releases to

the environment, and conducting fueling operations and storage of hazardous materials and chemicals in bermed/curbed areas and in a manner that minimizes potential impacts to surface water.

Land Application: The land application of treated wastewater will occur at agronomic rates to avoid irrigation runoff into surface water. Powertech will also construct catchment areas to prevent land application water from entering surface water. The catchment areas will be constructed with berms and will be graded to prevent any runoff from applied water and rainfall on the land application areas from reaching surface water. A condition of the ground water discharge permit will not allow land application solutions to collect in the catchment areas during dry conditions.

Air Quality. Potential air quality impacts during construction activities will include emissions from heavy equipment, vehicles, and drill rigs; dust from traffic; and dust from surface-disturbing activities. Most dust will be generated from vehicular traffic on the unpaved roads; therefore, speed limits will be imposed for employee vehicles and transport trucks in order to mitigate the amount of dust generated from unpaved roads. Temporarily disturbed areas also will be reseeded and restored as soon as possible to minimize erosion of soil and fugitive dust emissions.

During operation, in addition to particulates from fugitive dust, non-radiological gaseous emissions will include vehicle combustion emissions, and stationary source emissions, including propane heating emissions and carbon dioxide released during uranium processing in the central processing plant. Fugitive dust will be lower during operation than construction due to decreased surface disturbing activities.

Powertech has submitted a permit application to the department's Air Quality Program requesting an exemption from South Dakota air permitting as a minor source of emissions. The permit application includes a detailed emissions inventory. On February 21, 2013, the department determined that an operating air permit will not be required because the project does not have the potential to generate more than 25 tons per year of any criteria pollutant, 10 tons per year of a single hazardous air pollutant, or 25 tons per year of any combination of hazardous air pollutants.

Powertech currently is performing detailed ambient air quality modeling that is being coordinated with NRC and EPA. The modeling will evaluate the potential impacts of emissions from the Dewey-Burdock Project on ambient air quality to nearby residences and potential near-field impacts within 50 km of the proposed permit area (including Jewel Cave National Monument). In addition, the modeling specifically will address potential impacts on air quality related values (AQRVs) at the Wind Cave National Park, the nearest Class I area. The modeling results will be publicly available and will be submitted to DENR upon request.

Threatened and Endangered Species: No federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species were documented in the proposed permit boundary during baseline surveys. However, there are two bald eagle nests in the proposed Dewey mining area. No more than two or three bald eagles were observed during any given winter survey despite the numerous available (and

unoccupied) mature trees along Beaver Creek, Pass Creek, and the pine breaks located in and near the permit area. The bald eagle is listed as a state threatened species, but it may be removed from the state threatened list in 2013. Three proposed land application sites (center pivot irrigation systems) would fall within one mile of the bald eagle nest. However, those systems are typically automated, and the minimal disturbance associated with potential maintenance of those systems should not be significant enough to impact nesting or roosting bald eagles along Beaver Creek. Potential direct impacts to bald eagles include the potential for injury or mortality to individual birds foraging in the permit area due to electrocutions on new overhead power lines. Although not expected, disturbance activities near an active nest could result in abandonment and, thus, the loss of eggs or young. The increased human presence and noise associated with construction activities, if conducted while eagles are wintering within the area, could displace individual eagles from using the area during that period.

Given the low number of wintering and nesting bald eagles in the permit area, potential impacts would be limited to individuals rather than a large segment of the population. The use of existing or overlapping right-of-way corridors along with best management practices will minimize potential direct impacts associated with overhead power lines. If necessary, the majority of other potential impacts could be mitigated if construction activities were conducted outside the breeding season and/or winter roosting months, or outside the daily roosting period, should eagles be present within 1 mile of construction. Any bald eagles that might roost or nest in the area once the project is operational would be doing so in spite of continuous and ongoing human disturbance, indicating a tolerance for such activities.

Powertech is developing an avian mitigation and management plan in cooperation with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan will identify measures Powertech will take to limit impacts to nesting eagles, other raptors, and migratory birds during the mining operation.

The only other state-listed species recorded in the general area was the river otter. An otter carcass was discovered lodged in debris in the stream channel at fisheries sampling station BVC04 in mid-April 2008. That site is approximately 12 river miles upstream from the permit area boundary in eastern Wyoming. The carcass had washed away by the July 2008 fisheries sampling session. The monthly sampling at BVC04 during the monitoring period confirmed no additional observations of otters. Likewise, no evidence of otters was reported by biologists along any drainage elsewhere in the survey area during the year-long baseline survey period. Given the fact that no stream channels will be physically impacted in the permit area, the lack of otter sightings or sign in the permit area itself, and the stringent water processing and water quality monitoring that will occur, this project is not likely to directly or indirectly impact river otters.

Ten terrestrial species tracked by the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program (SDNHP) were recorded during baseline surveys, including the bald eagle. Seven of the ten were observed within the permit area, and three were seen in the 2-km perimeter. One additional species, the plains topminnow, was observed in Beaver Creek and the Cheyenne River, at least 1 mile outside the permit area. Three SDNHP species are known or suspected to have nested in the permit area in 2008. However, two of the three nest sites are at least 1 mile from the nearest planned new

facility, and all three were closer to existing disturbances in 2008 than they would be to new activities outside those existing areas.

The seven SDNHP species recorded in or flying over the permit area could potentially experience direct and/or indirect impacts from construction and operation of the proposed operation: e.g., injury, mortality, avoidance, displacement and increased competition for resources. Those potential impacts will be minimized by the timing, extent, and duration of the proposed activities. Enforced speed limits during all phases of the project will further reduce potential impacts to wildlife throughout the year, particularly during the breeding season. Once facilities and infrastructure are in place, animals remaining in the permit area would demonstrate an acclimation to those disturbances.

No threatened or endangered vegetation species were observed within the permit area; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Other Concerns:

Cultural Resources. Within the permit boundary of the proposed Dewey-Burdock site, 18 historic sites are either listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or eligible for listing in the NRHP. Based on the proposed location of ISR facilities and infrastructure, avoidance of 12 of these sites is possible during the construction phase and, therefore, no impacts are anticipated. Avoidance and mitigation, such as fencing and data recovery excavations, are recommended for the remaining six NRHP-eligible sites. In addition, avoidance is recommended for two unevaluated historic burial sites located in proximity to proposed construction activities until their NRHP eligibility is determined. Avoidance and mitigation is also recommended for 4 unevaluated site[s] located within 76 m (250 ft) of proposed well fields or land application areas.

Prior to construction, Powertech will establish an agreement between NRC, the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), BLM, interested Native American tribes, and other interested parties that outlines the mitigation process for each affected historic resource. As part of this agreement, Powertech will develop an Unexpected Discovery Plan that will outline the steps required if unexpected historic and cultural resources are encountered.

Current Status – February 27, 2013:

On January 16, 2013, the application was determined to be procedurally complete. The department and the other review agencies are presently conducting a technical review of the application. The department has asked Powertech to grant a 45-day extension of the time to review the mine permit application prior to the hearing. The extension was granted on February 1, 2013. The department's recommendation will be issued in April 2013. The Board of Minerals and Environment will set a hearing date for the Powertech's mine permit application during its May 2013 meeting.

Copies of the mine permit application are available for public inspection at the Custer County Register of Deeds Office in Custer, South Dakota, the Fall River County Register of Deeds Office in Hot Springs, South Dakota, on the department's web page at

<http://denr.sd.gov/des/mm/powertechpage.aspx>, or at the Minerals and Mining Program, Department of Environment and Resources, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

For more information, contact the Minerals and Mining Program, Joe Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, or call (605) 773-4201.