



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

August 30, 2013

Mike Cepak
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Minerals and Mining Program

Foss Building
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Matt Hicks
Senior Hydrologist
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources
Ground Water Quality Program
Foss Building
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. Cepak and Mr. Hicks:

The Izaak Walton League of America opposes Powertech Uranium's applications for water permits, a ground water discharge permit, and a large-scale mining permit. These permits would allow the company to mine by injection wells, which is now generally known as in situ leach mining.

The Izaak Walton League's policy regarding in situ leach uranium mining is as follows:

"The League finds that uranium mining by means of injection wells poses a grave threat to groundwater and should be prohibited wherever groundwater is a prime source of water for irrigation or human consumption."

As groundwater is the prime source of domestic, municipal, and livestock use in western South Dakota – as well as on the proposed mine site, the League oppose this project.

Our organization's policies also state that "All mining should be subject to controls that protect other resource values – particularly the quality of surface and subsurface waters" and that "Mining should be prohibited unless it can be assured that radioactive or other hazardous substances will not enter the environment." Based on the mining practices at issue in this case, the League does not believe the proposed mine would meet either of these conditions.

Thank you for entering this letter in the official record regarding these permit applications. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at the League's National Office or Mark Boddicker, President of our Rapid City Chapter, at 605-391-3796.

Sincerely,

Scott Kovarovics
Executive Director

cc: Governor Dennis Daugaard
Mark Boddicker