

Sep 28, 2012 27 2012

September 24, 2012

Dear Wyoming DEQ,

**Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council**

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I am writing to protest the proposed uranium mining in Crook County, WY near our first national monument, Devil's Tower. As a 40 year health professional and professor emeritus, I am gravely concerned about the dramatic and exponential losses of our water resources in this country due to mining and fracking. The World Health Organization has predicted a world water crisis by 2020. I think your department should stand back and take a look at what is transpiring in Wyoming. As I travel there frequently, I am appalled to see the destruction of water and land in a state that was once one of the most beautiful in our country. Water is a major Public health concern and I hope you realize that ISL mining has NOT been proven safe. Additionally, it has resulted in critical water loss issues for those citizens and residents living in the region where the mining takes place. These waters cannot be brought back when aquifers are affected so there is a permanent loss of value and usability of the lands. I emphasize that contamination is not the only issue. ISL affects aquifers affecting the sufficiency and volume of water ranchers and citizens can access. Between contamination and sufficiency – it is a disaster in the making. With all due respect, reclamation is a fantasy. To permit such projects is simply a “transferring of wealth” from your citizens and ranchers into the hands of large corporate entities and people who don't even live in or care about Wyoming.

I am very knowledgeable about these matters and have participated as an interested party in NRC hearings pertaining to the permitting process. Scientifically, ISL has not been proven to be safe. Ethically and morally this proposed project is very objectionable and should be of equal value to the scientific arguments. It is a fact that the United States has over 200 years worth of uranium already available. Japan has just declared that they will be nuclear free by 2030 and Germany disposed of over 50% of their plants already and will be nuclear free soon. France has banned all fracking. So it is clear that this raping of Wyoming's land is a “for profit” only venture with the uranium being sold abroad to the insatiable needs of China, India and others. We have to question what we are subjecting our citizens to in the name of greed and future generations who will have no safe water. This is not an over dramatization. It is real life and if you travel (as I do) around to uranium mines that are operating now or have in the past – you see the same scenario over and over, illness, suffering, poverty and hopelessness. Economic development and robust healthy communities cannot exist without healthy water. So this is what you will be subjecting your citizens to in eastern Wyoming and the health effects are also of concern to those of us just over the border here in South Dakota.

Unless some sound vision of what we want our lands, water and people to be like in 20 or 50 years applied, The United States of America will be a resource depleted and toxic place which will definitely lead to our fall as a world leader. Additionally, tourism and agriculture are NOT compatible with mining.

I urge you to save what is left of beautiful Wyoming and reject this proposal.

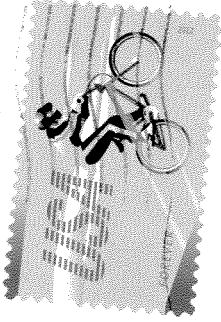
In health,



Rebecca R Leas, Ph.D.

Dr. Rebecca Leas
6509 Seminole Ln.
Rapid City, SD 57702

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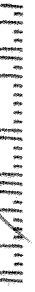



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SEP 27 2012

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Nancy Wittbrock
Administrator, Land Quality Division
Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality
122 W. 25th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002





Rebecca R. Leas, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Health Education and Wellness Specialist

6509 Seminole Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702-7088

Home: 605-791-2951

Cell: 814-229-8073

Email: rrleas@yahoo.com