

August 13, 2013

Dear Mayor and Rapid City Council:

In the Rapid City Journal article dated August 11, 2013, "Council to oppose uranium mining," it reads "Hollenbeck said contamination worries are also unwarranted. "That was a concern on mining when I started working here," he said. That just does not happen."

We would respectfully call your attention to this quote regarding the Crow Butte ISL uranium mine in Tom Cook's opinion piece "Uranium mining permit still under review" in the Rapid City Journal dated January 19, 2013:

"CBR's excursion and spills history has resulted in release of radioactive constituents to underground sources of drinking water. One spill reported in the Chadron Record July 8, 1997, was from a crack in a PVC pipe coupling, releasing a gallon per minute of mining fluids into the overlying aquifer for two years.

At one gallon per minute, that's approximately 1.6 million gallons of "lixiviant" going into circulation. If water flows downhill, it heads directly under Pine Ridge and is in the alluvium today. At Slim Butte four years ago, a 30-foot well alongside the White River tested for uranium at 45.9 UgL, while the maximum contaminate level is 15 UgL, as set by the Environmental Protection Agency. We think there's a causal connection."

Here is a link to Mr. Cook's complete article: http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/opinion/forum-uranium-mining-permit-still-under-review/article_288de7b2-9e79-565f-bbe4-1e0b6c26420b.html

Below is a list of violations at the Crow Butte mine:

License Violations at Crow Butte ISL uranium mine (Nebraska)

- Jun. 5, 2013: Radiation dose in unrestricted area exceeds 0.02 mSv/h standard
- Mar. 14, 2013: Evaporation Pond 1 liner leak
- Jan. 18, 2013: Well fails mechanical integrity test
- Oct. 24, 2012: Well fails 20-year mechanical integrity test
- Aug. 20, 2012: Well fails 5-year mechanical integrity test
- June 4, 2012: Well fails 5-year mechanical integrity test
- May 25, 2012: Monitor well fails 15-year mechanical integrity test
- Oct. 7, 2011: Monitor well excursion
- Aug. 9, 2011: Exceedance of Well Head Manifold Pressure Limitations
- July 18, 2011: two wells fail 5-year mechanical integrity test
- June 1, 2011: Evaporation Pond 1 liner leak
- May 27, 2011: two Monitor well excursions
- May 24, 2011: Monitor well excursion
- Mar. 16, 2011: Monitor well excursion
- Jan. 13, 2011: Monitor well excursion
- July 8, 2010: Monitor well excursion

- July 6, 2010: Well fails 5-year mechanical integrity test
- June 22, 2010: Excursions at two monitor wells "due to increased groundwater levels"
- June 22, 2010: Monitor well excursion
- June 16, 2010: Excursions at three monitor wells "due to increased groundwater levels"
- June 11, 2010: Evaporation Pond 3 liner leak detected
- May 10, 2010: Well fails 5-year mechanical integrity test
- Apr. 13, 2010: Excursion at monitor well due to "natural conditions"
- Dec. 31, 2009: Evaporation Pond 4 Liner Leak
- Nov. 19, 2009: Well fails 15-year mechanical integrity test
- Oct. 15, 2009: Mechanical integrity test missed for two wells
- June 18, 2009: Evaporation Pond 4 liner leak detected
- June 11, 2009: Monitor well excursion
- June 5, 2009: Evaporation Pond 1 liner leak detected
- April 27, 2009: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- April 17, 2009: Production well fails 5-year mechanical integrity test
- June 4, 2008: Exceedance of Well Head Manifold Pressure Limitations
- May 31, 2008: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- May 23, 2008: \$50,000 penalty imposed for violations
- May 19, 2008: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- April 29, 2008: Five-year mechanical integrity test missed for 42 wells
- September 26, 2006: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- May 5, 2006: leak detected at Pond 4
- January 19, 2006: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- October 27, 2005: Injection well leak detected
- August 4, 2005: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- June 28, 2005: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- June 17, 2005: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- May 2, 2005: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- May 14, 2004: leak detected at Pond 1
- December 23, 2003: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- December 26, 2002: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- September 10, 2002: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- April 4, 2002: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- December 4, 2001: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- March 2, 2001: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- September 10, 2000: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- May 26, 2000: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- April 27, 2000: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- March 6, 2000: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- July 2, 1999: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- August 7, 1998: Spill of 10,260 gallons of injection fluid
- March 21, 1998: Monitor well placed on excursion status
- August 12, 1997: Discovery of Pinhole Leaks in Upper Liner of Process Water Evaporation Pond

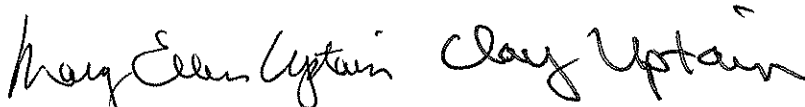
Source: <http://www.wise-uranium.org/umopusa.html#CROWB>

While we respect Mr. Hollenbeck's right to represent his company, we are dismayed that he states that "contamination concerns" are unwarranted. The two sources that we site here document many contamination concerns with a nearby ISL uranium mine that are clearly warranted.

In addition to the Crow Butte Mine, the wise-uranium website also details the license violations and contamination concerns at other ISL uranium mines, including those in Wyoming.

Thank you again for listening to your constituents and acting to protect and preserve the precious water in the Black Hills for use now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Mary Ellen Uptain and Clay Uptain in cursive script.

Mary Ellen and Clay Uptain

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