
CRYING EARTH RISE UP!



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & THE SURVIVAL OF A PEOPLE: URANIUM MINING & THE OGLALA LAKOTA PEOPLE

PROTECTION OF SACRED WATER MOTHER EARTH
1851 & 1868 FT. LARAMIE TREATY TERRITORY

“SOME DAY THE EARTH WILL WEEP, SHE WILL BEG FOR HER LIFE, SHE WILL CRY WITH TEARS OF BLOOD. YOU WILL MAKE A CHOICE, IF YOU WILL HELP HER OR LET HER DIE, AND WHEN SHE DIES, YOU TOO, WILL DIE.” --John Hollow Horn, *Oglala Lakota*, 1932



EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN WINTER 2008-2009
A FOLLOW-UP TO THE WATERBOOK PRINTED IN 2007
BY OWE AKU, *BRING BACK THE WAY*
MANDERSON, SOUTH DAKOTA 57756-032

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE SURVIVAL OF A PEOPLE:
URANIUM MINING AND THE OGLALA LAKOTA PEOPLE**

Crying Earth Rise Up!

Environmental Justice & The Survival Of A People: Uranium Mining & the Oglala Lakota People

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PO Box 325

Manderson, South Dakota 57756-0325

USA

www.bringbacktheway.com

Acknowledgements

This publication is a follow-up to the Water Book published by Owe Aku during 2007. The Water Book is available for a limited time on the Internet at www.bringbacktheway.com. The Water Book served to bring an updated awareness to the Oglala Lakota people and our allies to the conditions of the environment and health of our people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to the role uranium mining plays on Mother Earth.

At the time of publication of the Water Book, Owe Aku was in the early stages of talking with other activists, families, traditional leaders, and environmentalists about forming an alliance to take a formal look at the conditions of life on Pine Ridge and in the surrounding Treaty Territory. It is from those discussions that the collective action described in this publication was born. A true alliance was born to do this important work.

Much information included in this publication was accessed from video footage that is provided by the Lakota Media Project of Owe Aku, much thanks to the camera operators who got themselves to meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. to film and document speeches, dialogues, debates, etc.

Much thanks to the folks who did research and double-checked and triple-checked facts and factoids for each other, for scouring the Internet, making phone calls to friendly and not-so-friendly government and mining officials, and reading reading reading news publications, watching documentaries and taking notes (even at the theatre!) etc.

Much thanks to the Earth Angel and Earth Warrior who traveled all over Pine Ridge to get water samples, for following the “chain of evidence” procedures, and getting things done the “official” way!

The artwork on the front cover of this publication is

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE SURVIVAL OF A PEOPLE:
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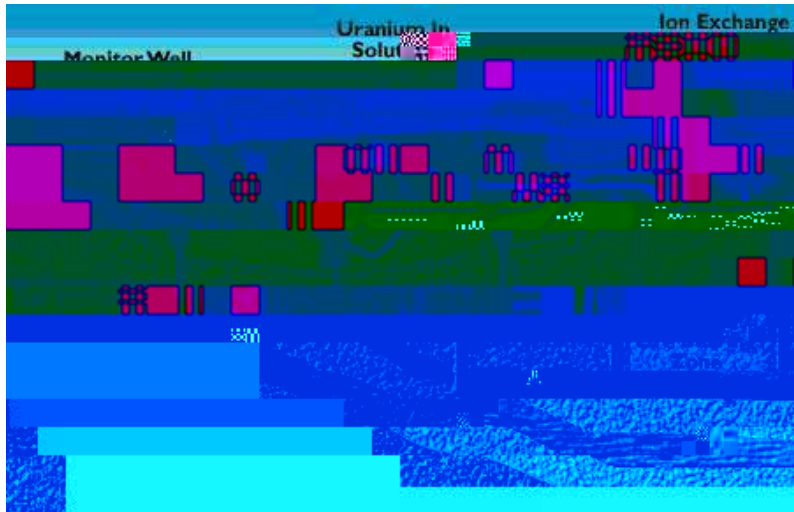
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“Pine Ridge Indian Agency” (Official Bureau of Indian Affairs-BIA-terminology)

The US Dept of Interior BIA Census reports there are 48,000 Oglala Lakota people, with 25,000 tribal members currently residing on Pine Ridge. 65% of our population is age 25 and under. Pine Ridge has been the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd poorest county in America since the US Census began. Pine Ridge includes the Shannon, Bennett, and Jackson Counties inside its borders. There is an 89% unemployment rate on Pine Ridge. Able-bodied people want to work-there are just no job opportunities. (see BIA Labor & Statistics Report at the Dept of Interior website.)

WHAT IS SITU LEACH MINING: “ISL”?
ISL Mining and Yellow Cake Production Process



In Situ Leach Mining is also called In Situ Recovery Mining (ISL or ISR)

One type of mining that uses water is known as “In Situ Leach Mining”. This is a mining method used to extract uranium ore from underground. ISL mining involves injecting solutions deep underground into the uranium ore body through injection wells, then different pipes known as the ‘production well’ pulls up the injected solution (the uranium ore attaches to the injected solution) from deep in the ground. All of the piping is placed in drill holes which puncture the aquifers, presenting potential for leaks of uranium-bearing water to escape and enter clean groundwater. From these pipes, the uranium ore enters the production plant above ground, the solution and dirt debris is shaken off in huge vats, and the remaining uranium ore is then sent through a drying process to turn the raw ore into a fine powder called “yellow cake”. ISL mining then reuses some of the same water to repeat the process. It is necessary to drill thousands of holes deep in the ground to conduct the ISL mining method, some holes are for injection pipes, other pipes are used for the extraction of the uranium.

Substances such as arsenic and radioactive contaminants such as Radium 226 & 228, Thorium 230 and other contaminants are also stirred up and can enter groundwater as a result of ISL mining through leaks in the thousands of pipes used to conduct ISL mining.

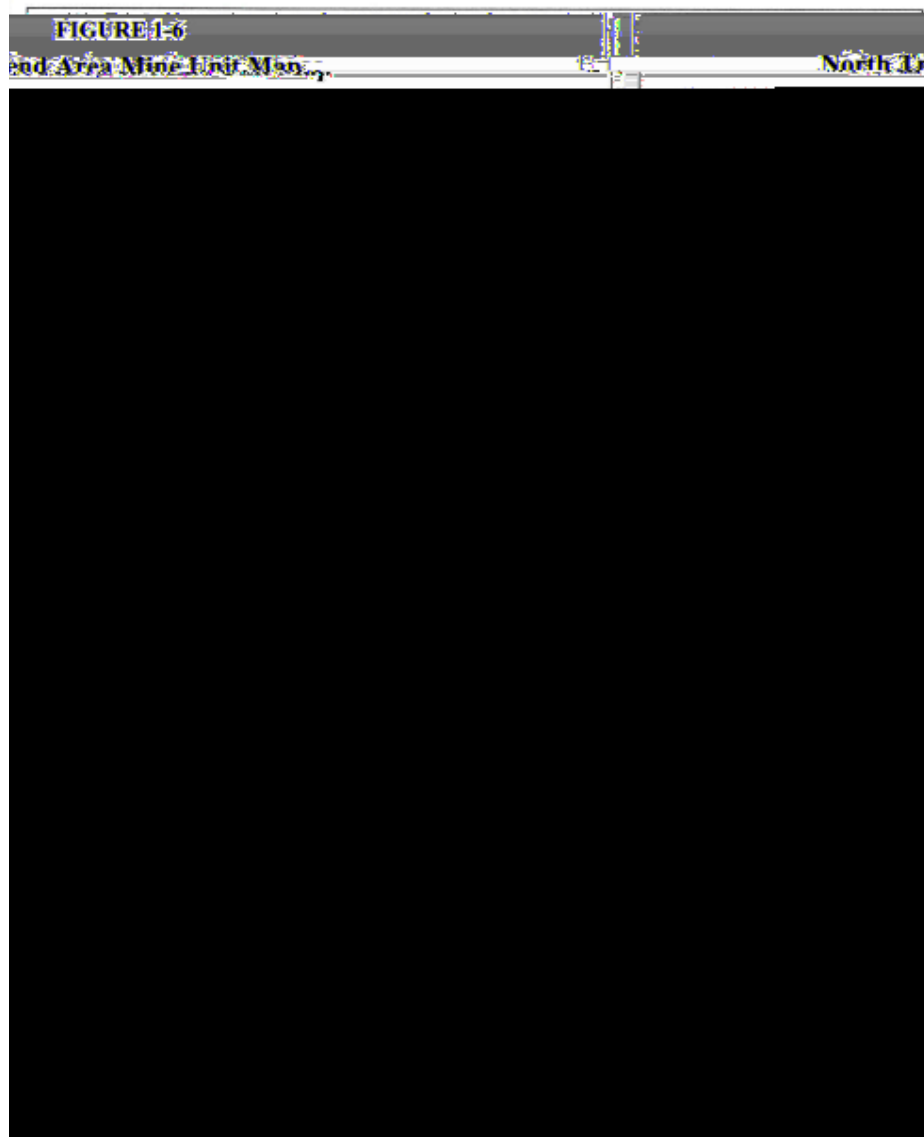
The ISL process presents the potent

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MAP OF COMECON'S PROPOSED EXPANSION: NORTH TREND PERMIT BOUNDARIES



“It’s hard to see life for the coming 7 generations with the contaminants coming from uranium.”
–Milo Yellow Hair

To see the video with this interview go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH3-AZKYuvA>

“Cameco doesn’t care who they hurt.”-Loretta Afraid of Bear-Cook.

“We’re trying to stop this uranium mine, everyday we use this water to pray.”-Joe American Horse

“The amount of water they are predicting they’ll use is 2.6 billion gallons each year, this water will be gone.” –Buffalo Bruce of Western Nebraska Resource Council

To see the video with these interviews go to:

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PETITIONERS ADMITTED IN THE CHALLENGE TO NORTH TREND URANIUM MINE EXPANSION

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AMICUS BRIEFS FILED WITH OUR CHALLENGE TO THE NORTH TREND EXPANSION

The Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Center for Water Advocacy, and Rock the Earth submitted Amicus Briefs to the panel of judges.

AFFADVITS FILED WITH OUR CHALLENGE TO THE NORTH TREND EXPANSION

Individuals and ngo's submitted supporting Affidavits including Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth (sacredness of water), Harvey White Woman of the Oglala Band of the Lakota Nation (failure to consult with the Oglala Sioux Tribe, historical preservation, Winters Doctrine), and the thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers (spiritual value and nature of water).

ATTORNEYS IN THE NORTH TREND EXPANSION

Attorneys in the North Trend Expansion case include David Frankel, Bruce Ellison, and Shane Robinson, there are additional legal team members who assist with research, writing, etc.

Expert Witnesses and Observers include Paul Robinson of the Southwest Research and Information Center. For more info please go to the website: <http://www.sric.org/>

THE SECOND CHALLENGE TO CAMECO, INC.

CAMECO FILES TO RENEW ITS EXISTING LICENSE FOR THE CROW BUTTE ISL MINE

In early 2008, Cameco filed its intent to renew its existing license for the Crow Butte Operations ISL mine. When the application appeared on the NRC website, we downloaded it and began preparing to challenge their application.

PETITIONS F

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attorneys and staff of the NRC, the Judges Panel, the petitioners and their attorneys toured the Pine Ridge Reservation.

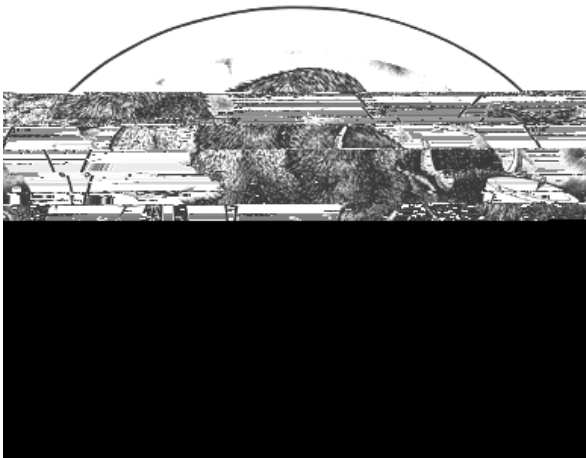
On Nov 21, 2008, the ALB Judges admitted 9 of the 23 contentions including the **failure to disclose non-radiological impacts, failure to consult regarding cultural resources, failure to disclose impact on surface waters, including The White River, failure to disclose fractures and faults connecting the mined aquifer and drinking aquifers, failure to disclose that wastes are released on-site, failure to include recent research, failure to account for the value of non-degraded wetlands, and failure to disclose foreign ownership.**

AMICUS BRIEFS FILED IN THE CHALLENGE TO THE CROW BUTTE LICENSE RENEWAL

The International Indian Treaty Council submitted an Amicus Brief regarding the rights of indigenous people under international human rights law.

ATTORNEYS IN THE CHALLENGE TO THE CROW BUTTE LICENSE RENEWAL

Attorneys in the challenge to Cameco's application for license renewal include David Frankel, Bruce Ellison, Thomas Ballanco, Shane Robinson, and Elizabeth Lorina of the Gonzalez Law Firm. There are additional members of the



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Cameco, Inc. voted 7th worst company in the world by Censored News: Dec 31, 2008

Cameco uranium mining and Sithe Global/Navajo Nation, tied for the seventh Worst Company in the World. For more info please see <http://www.bsnorrell.blogspot.com/>

State regulators in Wyoming fined Cameco, Inc. \$1.4 million for license violations at the Smith and Highland ISL uranium mines in Wyoming. The state of Nebraska recently fined Cameco, Inc. \$100,000 for license violations at the Crow Butte Operations ISL uranium mine.

At the Sept 2008 NRC Hearing held in Chadron, NE, the NRC's regional licensing branch chief, Bill von Till, acknowledged that "restoration of the aquifer to baseline (pre-mining) is unachievable". During the hearing, Mike Griffin, an executive representing the mining corporation Uranium One, said that it isn't achievable to restore groundwater that has been used in mining back to the 30 parameters used to measure baseline standards: "If you can't show the water has been restored you have to go back to the NRC and show that the contaminated water will not travel away from the mining site."

Following what water protectors in Port Hope, Ontario say was a ten year period of Cameco dumping its toxic cocktail of uranium, arsenic and radium into Lake Ontario (the drinking water source of Port Hope residents), "after three months of Cameco denials that anything was wrong, the company has been ordered to clean up its act by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission" according to the Families Against Radiation Exposure organization in Port Hope. For more info: <http://www.ph-fare.com>

WHERE IS CAMECO?

Crow Butte ISL Uranium Mine in Crawford, Nebraska, USA (Ft Laramie Treaty Territory)

Smith ISL Uranium Mine in Wyoming, USA (Ft Laramie Treaty Territory)

Highland ISL Uranium Mine in Wyoming, USA (Ft Laramie Treaty Territory)

Cigar Lake ISL Uranium Mine in Saskatchewan, Canada

Rabbit Lake ISL Uranium Mine in Saskatchewan, Canada

Key Lake ISL Uranium Mine in Saskatchewan, Canada

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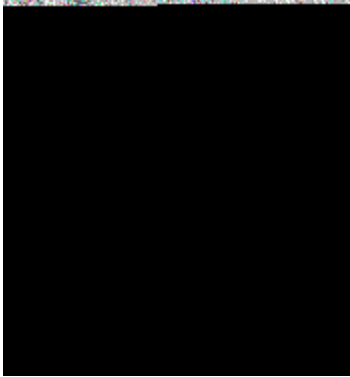
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ON DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Most drinking water sources have very low levels of radioactive contaminants ("radionuclides"), most of which are naturally occurring, although contamination of drinking water sources from human-made nuclear materials can also occur. Most radioactive contaminants are at levels (10 times) most radc0.0

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**DRINKING WATER TESTS CONDUCTED ON THE PINE RIDGE
RESERVATION IN 2008 AND 2009**

Water samples were taken from 10 homes on the Pine Ridge in various communities. In 6 out of the 10 homes tested, the results showed MCL's (Maximum Contaminant Level) for gross alpha emitters (radionuclides) that exceeded legal limits. When drinking water test results reveal contaminants higher than the MCL, that drinking water is considered by the EPA to be unfit for human consumption. Two test results showed illegal MCL for arsenic. C



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AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

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WHO IS THAT URANIUM MINER IN THE HEART OF EVERYTHING THAT IS? (BLACK HILLS)

WHAT IS POWERTECH, INC.? AND WHY ARE THEY IN THE HE SAPA?

Powertech, Inc. is a recently formed foreign-owned uranium exploration corporation from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada with an office in Denver, CO and Edgemont, SD. Powertech has ISL mining plans for Wyoming, and currently is engaged in the permitting process for ISL uranium mines in South Dakota and Colorado.

Powertech intends to submit permit applications for uranium mining at its 7,000 acre Indian Springs ISL mine and 5 sections of land at its open-pit Centennial Projects in Colorado. (see www.nunnglow.com and www.powertechexposed.com).

Even closer to home for the Oglala Lakota in South Dakota, Powertech (PT) has completed exploratory drilling in the Dewey-Burdock uranium mine permit areas, which straddles Fall River and Custer counties 12 miles west of Edgemont. PT utilized several thousand drill holes made by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) 20-30 years ago when TVA explored and mined the area. From 1951 to 1964, TVA produced 1,500,025 pounds of yellow cake from this uranium deposit. TVA sold their claims when the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant approached a melt-down, and the horror of Chernobyl happened. Powertech, Inc. USA acquired the property in the Edgemont area in 2005.

PT submitted a “Notice of Intent to Operate” an ISL uranium mine and a “Request for Determination of Special, Exceptional, Critical, or Unique Lands” to the SD Dept of Natural Resources (SDDNR) for their mine permit area. This step in the process of preparing to ISL uranium mine is done in order to determine whether the lands are eligible for inclusion on the preliminary list of Special, Exceptional, Critical, or Unique Lands and it begins the process for individuals or organizations to file a petition to nominate such lands for inclusion on such list. Petitions to intervene in the process were submitted to the SDDNR to oppose Powertech.

THE BATTLE TO PROTECT HE S

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Archeology Laboratory, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD conducted a Cultural Resources Evaluation of the area, finding 217 sites including several that were recommended for further evaluation for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places prior to mining activity occurring. Prehistoric sites, many carbon dated to 4,000 years ago, included 200 hearths, stone circles, artifact scatters, living site, cairns, burial sites, rock shelters dating from Paleoindian-Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic-Woodland eras. The state archeologist recommended to the SD DNR Judge that more evaluation be conducted, but he was ignored. (to see these documents go to <http://denr.sd.gov/>)

The sacredness of water and of the He Sapa as the Heart Of Everything That Is, Ft Laramie Treaty Rights, the system of the He Sapa as an entire connected ecological system, the cultural and historical aspect of the He Sapa as an intact cultural resources system, and failure to consult tribal experts were included on the White Plume petition and the petition of the Oglala Sioux Tribe; the presence of a bald eagle nest, the area serving as an aquifer recharge area, and the archeological report, and other aquifer issues were included in the Defenders of the Black Hills petition and that of Charmaine White Faces' petition. However, in spite of this evidence, testimony and comments, the SDDNR judge ruled in favor of Powertech, granting the clearance to mine on this land. Bruce Ellison, attorney for White Plume, filed a motion for continuance and to have a hearing near the mine permit area, such as Hot Springs, and for the hearing to include a site visit to the mine area, but the motion was denied. However, the judge did state that there will be another hearing, witnesses, and a site visit, referring to the mine permit Powertech must file with the SD DNR and the NRC. The Board of Minerals and Environment is comprised of 9 members appointed by the Governor to serve 4-year terms. Incidentally, the Governor of SD (Gov Rounds) has a sister who has a husband who has a job working for Powertech!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Powertech, Inc. submitted their Underground Injection Control permit application to the EPA in March of 2009, to seek aquifer exemption in the mine permit area. This exemption is necessary for Powertech to do ISL mining and to utilize deep disposal wells to permanently store waste water underground. There is a time period when folks and organizations can submit comments to the EPA regarding Powertech's UIC application. For more info see: <http://www.epa.gov/region08/water/uic/>

Powertech has also submitted their ISL uranium mining application to the NRC to mine uranium out of the aquifers in the He Sapa. There is a 60 day time period to file an intervention with the NRC to seek standing once the document is published either at the NRC website or in the Federal Register.

An official with the NRC has notified Owe Aku that Powertech's application release date to the public is March 16, 2009. For more info go to: www.nrc.gov

Water Pollution A Major Concern In SD If Powertech Given ISL Mining Permit

Jan 2, 2009

Rapid City, SD - Environmental and conservation groups, including the *Sierra Club* of SD, warn that water pollution will be a major concern if the Canadian-based mining company Powertech is given a state permit to mine for uranium near Edgemont. Shirley Frederick, with the *Sierra Club's* Black Hills Group, says there's a high likelihood that aquifers will become polluted if an injection-well recovery system is used to mine the ore. "Powertech is going to do ISL uranium mining. They inject a solution into an aquifer, dissolve the uranium in the aquifer; then remove the solution, extract the uranium, reinject the solution, and that becomes a closed loop. It's a huge potential for contamination of the aquifer." *David Law, Public News Service – SD*

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MAP OF POWERTECH'S URANIUM MINE PERMIT BOUNDARIES

RSI-1764-08-007



Powertech:

Plans to begin uranium extraction in 2011 and operate for 15 years

Permit area is 10,580 acres

Will mine to a depth of 400-800 feet

Will use 4000 gallons of water per minute

Will use evap ponds, deep disposal well, and land application to get rid of radioactive water

Will extract 1 million pounds uranium per year

Will have 4000-8000 wells in the ground

Includes surface water of Pass Creek and Beaver Creek

Thirty-eight people live within a 6 mile radius

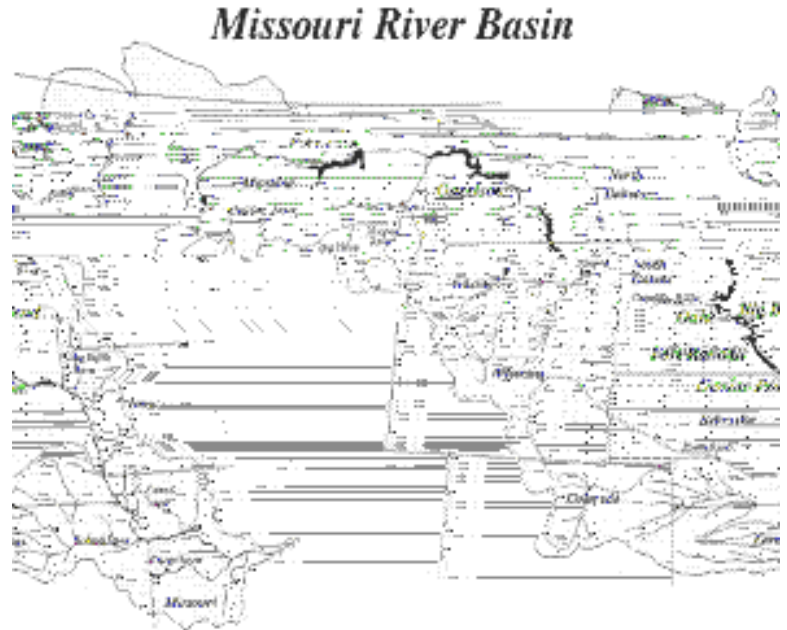
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MAP OF CANADA'S POWERTECH, INC. USA URANIUM MINE PROPERTIES
CANADIAN EXTRACTIVE MINING CORPORATIONS IN OUR AREA

Cameco: (Canadian owned Mining Corporation)

EXISTING & PROPOSED URANIUM MINES

- Crawford, NE at the Crow Butte Uranium Mine
- Crawford, NE at the PLANNED North Trend Uranium Mine
- Crawford, NE at the PLANNED Three Crow Uranium Mine
- Crawford, NE at the PLANNED Marsland Uranium Mine
- Wyoming at the Smith Uranium Mine (as Power Resources, Inc.) Douglas, WY
- Wyoming at the Highland Uranium Mine (as Power Resources, Inc.) Douglas, WY
- Nevada at the REN Gold Mining Project as Centerra, Inc. (with Barrick, Inc.)



POWERTECH, INC. EXISTING URANIUM MINES & PROPOSED URANIUM MINES



The Triangles indicate Powertech's ISL mines in the process of acquiring mining licenses from the NRC.

The Dots indicate Powertech's proposed ISL uranium mines.

Powertech, Inc. USA: (Canadian owned Exploration Corporation)

- Edgemont, SD at the Dewey-Burdock Uranium Mine
- South Dakota at the Plum Creek Uranium Mine
- Wyoming at the Dewey Terrace Uranium Mine
- Wyoming at the Aladdin Uranium Mine
- Colorado at the Centennial Uranium Mine
- Colorado at the Indian Springs Uranium Mine

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"Executive Order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" Memorandum from President Clinton: -Feb 11, 1994:

Today I have issued an Executive Order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. That order is designed to focus Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice. That order is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in Federal programs substantially affecting human health and the environment, and to provide minority communities and low-income communities access to public information on, and an opportunity for public participation in, matters relating to human health or the environment. The purpose of this separate memorandum is to underscore certain provisions of existing law that can help ensure that all communities and persons across this Nation live in a safe and healthful environment. Environmental and civil rights statutes provide many opportunities to address environmental hazards in minority communities and low income communities. Application of these existing statutory provisions is an important part of this Administration's efforts to prevent those minority communities and low income communities from being subject to disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects.

I am therefore today directing that all department and agency heads take appropriate and necessary steps to ensure that the following specific directives are implemented immediately: In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each Federal agency shall ensure that all programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment do not directly, or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria, methods, or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin. Each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities

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“THE 1851 AND 1868 FT LARAMIE TREATIES ARE THE LAW. WE ARE FOREVER OPPOSED TO URANIUM MINING IN OUR TREATY LANDS.” CHIEF OLIVER RED CLOUD OF THE OGLALA BAND, LAKOTA NATION & ITANCAN OF THE BLACK HILLS SIOUX NATION TREATY COUNCIL



**BLACK HILLS SIOUX NATION TREATY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION REGARDING Uranium Mining and Sacred Water
WITHIN 1851 & 1868 FT. LARAMIE TREATY TERRITORIES
Oct 14, 2007**

The 1851 & 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaties are the Supreme Law of the Land, entered into by our ancestors and their Allies to protect our freedom and sovereignty, our land, air, water, all of natural creation as well as our people and our future generations.

It is the responsibility of the Black Hills Sioux Nation Treaty Council to actively protect and preserve Treaty Territory and the integrity of our relationship to these Territories and to the 1851 & 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaties.

The BHSNTC: believes it is necessary to actively protect and preserve the environment of the 1851 & 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaty Territory and the health of the tribal membership and all living natural creation, including the groundwater source of drinking water; stands forever opposed to Uranium mining within the boundaries of the 1851 & 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaties and declares this Territory to be a Nuclear Free Zone and requires all BHSNTC member delegates' Indian Reorganization Act Tribal Governments to enact Tribal Legislation and Laws to support this Resolution and to develop and fund endeavors which will protect this Territory, Treaty Rights, and our environment, people, and coming generations; forever opposes, within the boundaries of the 1851 & 1868 Ft. Larami



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taught to live our lives and our relationship with the earth, air, sky, and animate beings have always made the paramount sanctity of water an ever-present aspect of Indigenous cultures. Whether in the frozen ice and snow of the North, the wet and sopping jungles of the South or the vast deserts and arid plains that stretch around the Earth, our peoples have always understood the binding, unifying, life-giving, force of water. Like everything else in our territories, we are the guardians of water and are charged with conveying that responsibility.

COMMUNICATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS: INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER IS LIFE” One way Indigenous peoples have assumed that responsibility is by communicating to international forums like the United Nations that there can be no separation between human rights and what others refer to as conservation, sustainable development and ecological preservation. Joining with Indigenous peoples, there now exists an expanding network of organizations, grassroots movements and

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Convention has not been ratified by the requisite number of nations (35), it is not binding international law.

THREATS HUMAN BEINGS POSE TO SURVIVAL: FAILURE TO RESPECT WATER

Here are some facts indicating the threat human beings are posing to our own survival because of our failure to respect the natural world's most sacred gift.

- There are 1.1 billion people, 18% of the world's population, who lack access to safe drinking water. About 2.6 billion people, 42% of the total, lack access to basic sanitation;
- Only 1% of the total water resources on earth is available for human use. While 70% of the world's surface is covered by water, 97.5% of that is salt water. Of the remaining 2.5% that is freshwater, almost 68.7% is frozen in ice caps and glaciers;
- 70% of all available freshwater is used for agricultural irrigation. Yet because of inefficient irrigation systems, 60% of this water is lost to evaporation or is returned to rivers and groundwater aquifers before it has the opportunity to provide sustenance to agriculture;
- About 90% of sewage and 70% of industrial wastes in developing countries are discharged into water courses without treatment, often polluting the usable water supply;
- At any time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from water-borne diseases;
- Freshwater ecosystems have been severely degraded: it is estimated that about half the world's wetlands have been lost, and more than 20% of the world's 10,000 known freshwater species have become extinct, threatened or endangered
- Water use increased six-fold during the 20th Century, more than twice the rate of population growth.
- While water consumption in industrialized countries runs as high as 380 litres/capita/day in the US and 129 litres/capita/day in Germany, in developing countries 20-30 litres/capita/day are considered enough to meet basic human needs. (In other words, the US uses at least 20 times more water per person than the vast majority of the world.);
- In parts of the US, China and India, groundwater is being consumed faster than it is being replenished, and groundwater tables are steadily falling. Some rivers, such as the Colorado River western US and the Yellow River in China, often run dry before they reach the sea;

KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT ACTION IS USELESS

Of course, facts and figures can help to identify the problem and, hopefully, demonstrate its urgency but in the end, knowledge without action is fairly useless. In the Lakota home land, the threat to water, water resources, and the aquifer has long been recognized. Not content to simply recognize the existence of the problem, Owe Aku, along with many other grass-roots organizations, is fighting to stop further contamination of this powerful, life-supporting Lakota resource. From the Missouri River to the Oglala Aquifer, from the Platte to the Powder, Lakota water sources are being threatened with depletion, extinction and contamination. Damns, mining, exploration, ranching, farming and even supplying fresh water via the Oglala Aquifer to the drought-starved, over-populated cities of the Southwest are all present-day weapons of greed. Water in our country is under attack by Euro-American corporations STILL profiting from the territory we are obligated to protect.

Now, with the world-wide energy crisis and the economic downturn, the settler-nations colonizing Indigenous lands are reinvigorating their resource pilfering. Not content to simply take the water, their objective is to also ensure that it is returned to the Earth with radioactive contamination that can bring destruction for centuries to come. For this reason, Owe Aku applauds the efforts the United Nations is undertaking to protect sacred mni. We hope to join with like-minded allies from around the world and offer that our ancient ways and wisdom, carried by our elders and leaders, can be a valuable resource in developing adequate programs and strategies. At Owe Aku, we are working to "bring back

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the way" so that this precious resource is not taken from the generations to come and so that we may stand proudly as their ancestors who chose to act in defending the sanctity of the Natural World.

Hecetu. Wopila.

United Nations internet links on the Water Decade: <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/index.html>
www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/sg_report.pdf www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/flashindex.html

UN General Assembly adopts the Declaration in September 2007

With an overwhelming majority of 143 votes in favour, only 4 negative votes cast (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United States) and 11 abstentions, the United Nations General Assembly (GA) adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on September 13, 2007. The Declaration has been negotiated through more than 20 years between nation-states and Indigenous Peoples. Les Malezer, Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, welcomed the adoption of the Declaration in a statement to the General Assembly:

"The Declaration does not represent solely the viewpoint of the United Nations, nor does it represent solely the viewpoint of the Indigenous Peoples. It is a Declaration which combines our views and interests and which sets the framework for the future. It is a tool for peace and justice, based upon mutual recognition and mutual respect."

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
GO TO THE WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.IWGIA.ORG/SW248.ASP](http://www.iwgia.org/sw248.asp)**

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

TO NATIVE PEOPLES, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GOES BEYOND THE ISSUE OF
DISPROPORTIONATE TOXIC, NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION &



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE SURVIVAL OF A PEOPLE:
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In the United States and Canada, it means to have the right to fully protect our environment and all natural resources in our traditional territories, reserves and reservations by applying, monitoring and enforcing our own tribal-based environmental, historical, sacred areas, endangered species and conservation laws

Environmental Justice means to be active-from the grassroots to tribal government-in all policy decisions from local, tribal, state, national and international levels where policy development is made that affects our future generations and all life that sustains us and our Mother Earth.

Statement is provided by Indigenous Environmental Network: www.ien.org

PEOPLE/ORGANIZATIONS/ STANDING UP RESISTING EXTRACTIVE MINING

IMMEDIATELY IMPACTED LOCAL NATIVE COMMUNITY TAKES ACTION:

CHADRON NATIVE AMERICAN CENTER passes Resolution No. 020309, on Feb. 3, 2009 which finds that there is a substantial public interest at stake due to uranium mining; namely, the health, safety and well being of Nebraska residents and the environment; a uranium mine located in Crawford, Nebraska, has been operating since 1987 pursuant to permits issued by the NE Dept of Environmental Quality and a source materials license from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and **RESOLVED**, that CNAC hereby refers to the Nebraska Attorney General this matter of alleged violations of the Nebraska Alien Ownership Act by Crow Butte Resources, Inc., a Nebraska corporation, and its Canadian parent company, Cameco, Inc.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe pass Ordinance 2007-40 which declares the Pine Ridge Reservation and Ft Laramie Treaty Territory to be a nuclear free zone and promises to prosecute to the fullest any individual or organization or corporation which may cause nuclear pollution or contaminants to enter these boundaries. The Ordinance was passed on Aug 7, 2007.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association pass a Resolution declaring Ft Laramie Treaty Territory a nuclear free zone and promise to prosecute to the fullest any entity, agency, individual or corporation who causes nuclear pollution to enter the territory.

Uranium Explorers Get Run Off the Pine Ridge: BHSN Treaty Council & Owe Aku Challenged NAEG on their right to explore for uranium on Pine Ridge, all entities run them off: Tribal Council, Court, Treaty Council, Owe Aku, Tokala Society! NAEG is excluded Oct. 2007.

The Dine Nation (Navajo) On April 29, 2005 the Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., signed what is believed to be the first Native American tribal law banning uranium mining and milling. www.sric.org

Aligning for Responsible Mining (2007) is formed, comprised of native and non-natives dedicated to responsible mining practices and environmental protection. Engages in challenges to ISL uranium mine in Nebraska.

POWERTECH, INC. USA FACES OPPOSITION IN COLORADO

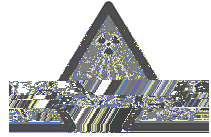
Help Us Stop Uranium Mining in Northern Colorado We are Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction (CARD). We **need your help** to protect northern Colorado from the environmental, health, and economic impacts of uranium mining by Powertech or any other mining company. These local and regional

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resources are severely threatened by uranium mining: Water - Surface, and Sub-Surface, Air Quality, Residents (Health and Welfare), Property Values, Livestock, Wildlife.

New IAEA Radiation Warning Symbol

Scientist Dr. Gordon Edwards recently wrote, "Uranium ore bodies are among the deadliest mineral deposits on earth. They harbor large quantities of dangerous radioactive materials" (pacificfreepress.com). Radium, a decay product of uranium commonly found in uranium mine tailings piles, has been labeled by the British Columbia Medical Association as a *superb carcinogen* because microscopic quantities can cause bone and head cancers, anemia, and leukemia.. A uranium mine releases radon, which blankets the ground hundreds of miles downwind from a uranium mine as solid radioactive fallout. To find out how you can help, go to www.nunnglow.com



WESTERN SHOSHONE FACE GIANT GOLD MINER ON SACRED MT. TENABO by Brenda Norrell

Western Shoshone demonstrated outside federal court in Reno, Nevada, demanding that Barrick Gold halt destruction of their sacred Mount Tenabo. Nearby at Pyramid Lake, about 150 Paiutes and supporters gathered to protest, who said the Pyramid Lake Marina operator has held Paiutes and their cultural items "hostage." The Federal District Court in Reno, Nevada is scheduled to begin a two day injunction hearing. Western Shoshone are asking the court to protect the world-recognized Shoshone spiritual area, Mt. Tenabo from what would be one of the US' largest open pit cyanide heap leach gold mines. Recently, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management approved the construction of the mine, wholly owned and operated by Canadian multinational mining giant Barrick Gold Corp. Western Shoshone communities, the Western Shoshone Defense Project and Great Basin Resource

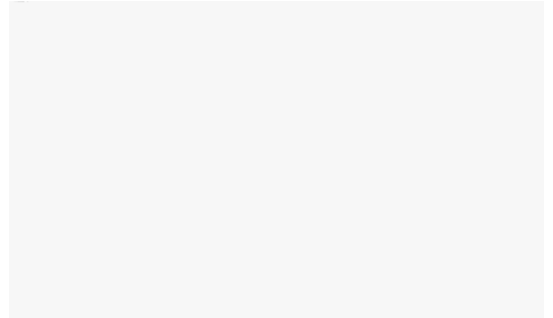
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rise in the number of exploratory permits requested by mining companies during the past year, with a dozen applications currently under review.

Hydro Resources, Inc. has four proposed mines in the Church Rock-Crownpoint region. In 2006, the NRC approved the license for all four sites. The NM Environmental Law Center filed a lawsuit in 2007 against the NRC to overturn the license. The NMELC argues that the NRC has violated the Atomic Energy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and its own regulations when it issued decisions on numerous issues. The NMELC's clients are appealing the following points: HRI failed to prove that it will protect groundwater from contamination by uranium and other toxic heavy metals, the company failed to ensure that the health of residents near the mines would be protected from damaging radioactive air emissions, and HRI's proposed financial bond for the site is inadequate to ensure that the site(s) would be cleaned up in the event that the company is unable to undertake reclamation of the land and/or water impacted by the mining. Because of the NRC's bias in favor of industry, a victory for NMELC's Navajo clients would set a major precedent in NM. For more info: go to www.nmenvirolaw.org

Southwest Research and Information Center is a multi-cultural organization working to promote the health of people and communities, protect natural resources, ensure citizen participation, and secure environmental and social justice now and for future generations. For more info see: <http://www.sric.org/>

WATER PROTECTORS CALL FOR C



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NOTE ON ISL URANIUM MINING WASTE WATER:

Dumping wastewater underground takes it out of the hydrological cycle and is a huge consumption of water (9,000 gallons per minute x 60 minutes x 24 hours x 365 days = 4.73 billion gallons per year; of which about 2% bleed is put into the deep injection disposal = 94,608,000 gallons per year taken out of the hydrological system).

If Cameco's North Trend Amendment is granted and flow increases to 13,500 gallons per minute, the amount of water pumped increases to 7.095 BILLION GALLONS per year and the bleed equals 2%, or 141,912,000 gallons per year taken out of the hydrological system. If Cameco receives their ISL uranium mining permit, Cameco plans to operate the North Trend ISL Uranium mine for 11 years.

How much water is 94,608,000 gallons per year x 11 years for the North Trend ISL Uranium Mine?
How much water is 94,608,000 gallons per year x 11 years for the Three Crow ISL Uranium Mine?
How much water is 94,608,000 gallons per year x 11 years for the Marsland ISL Uranium Mine?

