

Dawes County Commissioners

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David Henderson
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy
Mailstop NE-52
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

January 22, 2015

Re: Request for Information on the Department of Energy's Excess Uranium Management

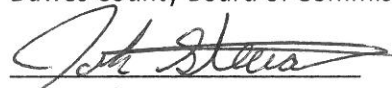
Dear Mr. Henderson:

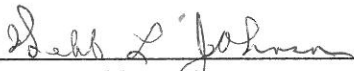
We are writing to provide comment regarding the Request for Information (RFI) on the Department of Energy's (DOE) management of the nation's excess uranium stockpile. As the leaders of one of the nation's uranium mining communities, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on the importance of the domestic mining industry. As the Department considers input from stakeholders on this issue, we encourage the establishment of a transparent process relating to the introduction of excess uranium into the market place and that steps be taken to minimize any negative impacts on the industry and provide certainty of action.

As background, Dawes County, Nebraska has been home to the employees and operations of the Crow Butte in situ mine, owned by Cameco Resource, for 23 years. The mine has established an outstanding record in regard to safety and the environment, and provides nearly \$22 million in revenue to our local economy and employs 45 individuals. The Crow Butte in situ uranium mine has for many years represented more than 33% of the taxable value of the Crawford School District total taxable value and about 6.5% of Dawes County total taxable value.

As you are aware, a number of factors have converged over the last several years to negatively impact the domestic uranium market and as a result, negatively impact communities like Dawes County. While some circumstances like the Fukushima disaster in Japan are beyond the control of the federal government, the development of a plan to address the nation's surplus uranium stockpile with clarity and transparency is within the control of DOE. Working with communities like ours and industry stakeholders, we urge the Department to recognize the price impact that the release of large amounts of uranium from federal holding can have on the domestic market. We encourage continued dialogue like this in order to develop a workable process that can ensure that domestic operators are able to engage on an even playing field and not be forced to compete against the stockpiles of the federal government. Such a process will not address all the headwinds facing domestic uranium production, but it can provide some certainty for the future and remove one challenge to current efforts and potential future growth, while helping to provide jobs, economic growth and much needed tax revenue to our community.

Dawes County Board of Commissioners


Jake Stewart


Webb L. Johnson


Valentin Rivera