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JAN 27 2026



**OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
COURTHOUSE**

Department of Agriculture
and Natural Resources

**906 NORTH RIVER ST
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747
PHONE: (605) 745-5130 FAX: (605) 745-6835**

Glenn Blumhardt, Chair
Board of Minerals & Environment
Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources
523 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Honorable Chair,

Last spring, Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR) published notice of proposed uranium exploration (EXNI 453) in Fall River County, near Craven Canyon. Publication of the notice provided for public comment and petitions to intervene in the decision-making process. It also provided for a venue change request from an affected county.

In a letter dated May 14, the Oglala Lakota County Commission timely and properly submitted our request to hold the hearing in Pine Ridge, Hot Springs (our county seat), or Rapid City.

SDCL 45-6D-27 states, in part, "The board of county commissioners of a county containing affected land may request that the hearing on the application for a uranium exploration operation permit be held in that county."


At an August, 2025 pre-hearing on the matter, Board of Minerals & Environment Hearing Chair Bob Morris denied our request as improper because it did not come from the county in which the exploration would be sited. **However, SDCL 45-6D-27 states that the request may come from a county "affected" by the project, not simply the county in which the project is sited.**

As duly-elected commissioners of a county situated downwind and downstream from the proposed site, we are aware that our lands have been affected by previous exploration and mining activities in Fall River County. We believe that further exploration or mining activities will create further impacts.

The Fall River County Commission and Hot Springs City Council also wrote in support of our timely & proper venue change request. Those additional requests were also denied in a December 21st ruling from Hearing Chair Morris, citing the earlier deadline that Oglala Lakota County did, in fact, meet.

Pursuant to ARSD 74:09:01:08, the Oglala Lakota County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests reconsideration of our venue change request by the full Board of Minerals & Environment, and to grant our request to relocate the hearing on EXNI 453 to Pine Ridge, Hot Springs or Rapid City.


Respectfully,



Allyssa Comer
Commission Chair



Wendell Yellow Bull
Commissioner



Art Hopkins
Commissioner

Fall River & Ogjala Lakota County Auditor
906 North River Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747

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GLENN BLUMHARDT, CHAIR
C/O BRENDA BINEGAR
BOARD OF MINERALS & ENVIRONMENT
D.A.N.R.
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PIERRE, SD 57501