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JAN 27 2026

Department of Agriculture  
and Natural Resources



**OGLALA LAKOTA COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OFFICE  
COURTHOUSE  
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.**

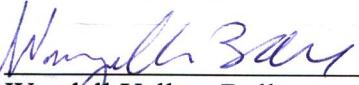
As duly-elected commissioners of a county situated downwind and downstream from the proposed site, we are aware that our lands have been affected by previous exploration and mining activities in Fall River County. We believe that further exploration or mining activities will create further impacts.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 & Oglala 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.  
523 E. CAPITOL AVE  
PIERRE, SD 57501