



City of Hot Springs
303 N River St.
Hot Springs SD 57747

October 20, 2025

South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: Support for Relocating the Craven Canyon Uranium Exploration Drilling Permit
Hearing to Hot Springs**

Dear Board Members,

On behalf of the City of Hot Springs, the City Council respectfully supports changing the venue for the upcoming public hearing on the Craven Canyon Uranium Exploration Drilling Permit. We support holding the hearing in Hot Springs rather than at the Capitol in Pierre. The scheduled hearing date will be set on January 6, 2026, and proceedings are expected to extend over four days.

Hot Springs is a proven and suitable venue for such proceedings. The Mueller Civic Center in Hot Springs has successfully hosted numerous EPA and NRC public comment opportunities, consistently drawing standing-room-only attendance in its 400-seat theater. Relocating the hearing here would ensure greater accessibility and engagement from the citizens and stakeholders directly impacted, including Intervenors from Fall River, Custer, Oglala Lakota, and Pennington Counties. This level of local participation is critical to the transparency and integrity of the decision-making process.

The City Council of Hot Springs joins with Intervenors and other County Commissions in strongly encouraging the Board to relocate this important hearing to Hot Springs. Doing so will provide more opportunity for local public participation.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Nelson
Mayor, City of Hot Springs