

From: Bridger Advocate <bridgeradvocate@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 12:19 PM

To: Binegar, Brenda <Brenda.Binegar@state.sd.us>; McVey, David
<David.McVey@state.sd.us>

Subject: [EXT] Lakota Language Interpreter submission re: Application EXN 1453

Dear Ms. Binegar, and Mr. McVey;

Please find attached my submission pursuant to the instructions of Pre-Hearing Officer Bob Morris during the August 21, 2025 pre-hearing conference in Application EXN 1453.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Lone Eagle

PS: Please acknowledge receipt of this email. I am aware the state is experiencing some technical difficulties.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENT
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY CORPORATION
FOR PERMITS TO CONDUCT IN-SITU RECOVERY URANIUM MINING IN FALL RIVER
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA
EXN 1453

**INTERVENORS REQUESTING LAKOTA INTERPRETATION SERVICES AND PROPOSED
INTERPRETERS**

Pursuant to the instructions of **Pre-Hearing Officer Bob Morris** at the pre-hearing conference held on **August 21, 2025**, I respectfully submit the following list of intervenors in Application EXN 1453 who request Lakota interpretation services:

Darlene Hawk Wing

Helen Red Feather

Beverly Larson

Ruddell Bear Shirt

Seth Eagle Bear, Jr.

As stated in an earlier email, additional intervenors are bilingual and do not require the same level of interpretation services. However, they may need access to such services if they encounter language barriers during the course of these proceedings.

Proposed Interpreters

Phyllis Bald Eagle

 baldeaglephyllis1@gmail.com

Phyllis is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a first-language Lakota speaker. She serves as a Community Health Representative, working directly with elderly Lakota speakers. She previously collaborated with her father, Chief Dave Bald Eagle, on many issues concerning Lakota people. Phyllis brings extensive vocabulary in both Lakota and English, as well as diplomatic skills passed down from her father.

Violet Catches

✉ catchesv@outlook.com

Violet is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a first-language Lakota speaker. She holds a Master's degree in Linguistics from the University of Colorado, with expertise in Siouan languages. Violet is currently employed at the Pierre Indian Learning Center. Located in Pierre, she is readily available for services in that venue.

Duane Two Bulls

✉ duanetwobulls@gmail.com

Duane is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. As a young Lakota spiritual leader, he has been trained by elder mentors from an early age. He has worked with the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance and is familiar with the terminology associated with Application EXN 1453. He is prepared to provide translation and interpretation services as needed.

Alex White Plume

✉ alexanderwhiteplume@yahoo.com

Alex is an elder of the Oglala Sioux Tribe whose first language is Lakota. He has developed significant expertise in translating legal terminology through his more than twenty-year effort to legalize the cultivation and sale of hemp within the boundaries of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Rationale and Implementation

As first-language Lakota speakers, the above interpreters are uniquely qualified not only to translate between English and Lakota, but also to bridge the philosophical and cultural perspectives embodied in each language. This ensures thorough understanding for both Lakota-speaking intervenors and English-speaking counterparts.

Geographic Accessibility: Phyllis and Violet live in closer proximity to Pierre, while Duane and Alex reside within the Oglala Sioux Tribe's boundaries, making them accessible to first-language speakers there.

Preparedness: All four interpreters have confirmed their willingness and availability. They have received the link to the contested case website, and I have also shared with them the documents currently available.

Division of Duties: Given the volume of documents, interpreters will divide responsibilities for oral translation. Services will be provided via Zoom Workplace and in person as needed. They will also assist first-language speakers with translating responses from Lakota into English.

Pre-Hearing and Hearing Services: During future pre-hearing conferences and the eventual hearings, interpreters will provide real-time interpretation between English and Lakota with the support of available audio technology.

Court Reporting: I recommend that Violet Catches be assigned to work directly with the court reporter to ensure an accurate record of Lakota language testimony.

Technology Support: I recommend coordination with the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations to explore real-time interpretation technology for use during hearings.

Team Coverage: I further recommend that all interpreters be present at the final hearings to share responsibilities and avoid interpreter fatigue.

Next Steps

I respectfully request prompt collaboration with **Board Counsel David McVey** to develop a conservative budget and implementation plan for interpreter services to ensure meaningful participation by first-language Lakota speakers.

The first deadline set by Pre-Hearing Officer Morris is **September 30, 2025**, and timely arrangements are essential to guarantee due process and equal access for all intervenors.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Elizabeth Lone Eagle
Phone: 605-200-6800
Email: bridgeradvocate@gmail.com

Filed via email to Brenda.Binegar@state.sd.us pursuant to the Hearing Officer's August 21, 2025 Order