Instruction to Newspaper – Publish the Notice on October 28, or 29, 2026. The applicant is responsible for payment.

NOTICE OF HEARING on Application No. 2914-2 to Appropriate Water

Notice is given that Powertech (USA) Inc., 101 North Shoreline Boulevard, Suite 450, Corpus Christi TX 78401, has filed an application for a water permit to appropriate water from the Inyan Kara Aquifer for industrial use in a uranium in-situ mining project (Dewey-Burdock) located in southwestern Custer County & northwestern Fall River County.

Application No. 2914-2 proposes to appropriate 10.027 cfs (4,500 gpm), limited to an annual consumptive (net) withdrawal of up to 274.2 acre-feet of water, from up to 1,000 wells to be completed into the Inyan Kara Aquifer (approx. 200-800 ft deep), located throughout the project area. The project area is located in portions of Sections 20, 21, 27 thru 35; all in T6S-R1E; and portions of Sections 1 thru 5, 10 thru 12, 14 & 15; all in T7S-R1E.

Project Overview: The applicant proposes to recover uranium by a method known as in-situ recovery (ISR), specific to each well field, in which groundwater from the Inyan Kara formation is pumped to the surface, fortified with oxygen and carbon dioxide, and recirculated through the formation. The oxidized groundwater changes the uranium to a soluble form which is then removed from the solution. Only a small amount of the water is actually withdrawn (net withdrawals), since most water is recirculated through the uranium ore zone. Additionally, a portion of the water will be "bled off" to maintain a cone of depression so native groundwater continually flows toward the center of the production zone. The ISR process is repeated until the economic reserves of uranium are removed from that particular well field. The depleted well field is restored by continued circulation of clean water through the wells until water quality reaches near-pre-existing conditions.

South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 46-2A-4 provides that "if the applicant does not contest the recommendation of the Chief Engineer and no petition to oppose the application is received, the Chief Engineer shall act on the application pursuant to the Chief Engineer's recommendation and no hearing may be held before the board, unless the Chief Engineer makes a finding that an application, even if uncontested, presents important issues of public policy or public interest that should be heard by the board." In this case, the Chief Engineer finds that this application presents important issues of public interest that should be heard by the Water Management Board.

The Water Management Board will consider this application at 10:45 AM (Central Time) on December 2, 2026, in the Matthew Training Center, Joe Foss Bldg, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre SD. The Chief Engineer's recommendation is not final or binding upon the Board. The Board is authorized to 1) approve, 2) approve with qualifications, 3) defer, or 4) deny this application based on the facts presented at the public hearing.

Any person who intends to participate in the hearing shall allege that the application, upon approval, will cause injury to the person that is unique from any injury suffered by the public in general. The injury must concern a matter either within the regulatory authority found in SDCL 46-2A-9 for approval or denial of the application, or other matter concerning the application within the regulatory authority of the board to act upon as defined by SDCL 46-2-9 and 46-2-11, or both. Any person meeting the petitioner requirements and wishing to be a party of record in a contested case hearing shall file a written petition to oppose the application with BOTH the applicant and Chief Engineer. A petition opposing the application shall be filed on a form provided by the Chief Engineer. The petition form is available online at https://danr.sd.gov/public or by contacting the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer's address is "Water Rights Program, Foss Building, 523 E Capitol, Pierre SD 57501" or call (605) 773-3352. The applicant's mailing address is given above. If contesting the Chief Engineer's recommendation, the applicant shall also file a petition. A petition filed by either an interested person or the applicant must be filed by November 9, 2026.

The petition shall be in writing and shall include a statement describing the unique injury upon approval of the application on the petitioner, the petitioner's reasons for opposing the application, and the name and mailing address of the petitioner or the petitioner's legal counsel, if legal counsel is obtained. The hearing is an adversary proceeding and any party has the right to be present at the hearing and to be represented by a lawyer. These and other due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised at the hearing and decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Circuit Court and State Supreme Court as provided by law.

The December 2, 2026, hearing date will be automatically delayed for at least 20 days upon written request to the Chief Engineer from the applicant or any person who has filed a petition to oppose the application. The request for an automatic delay must be filed by November 9, 2026. If an automatic delay is requested, the hearing will be rescheduled for a future Board meeting and personal notice will be provided to the applicant and all petitioners regarding the time, date, and location.

Any interested person may file a comment on the application with the Chief Engineer. The comment shall be filed on a form provided by the Chief Engineer and is available online at https://danr.sd.gov/public or by calling (605) 773-3352 or writing the Chief Engineer at the address provided above. Filing a comment does not make the commenter a party of record or a participant in any hearing that may be held. Any comment must be filed by November 9, 2026.

Notice is given to individuals with disabilities that the meeting is being held in a physically accessible location. Individuals requiring assistive technology or other services in order to participate in the meeting or materials in an alternate format should contact Brian Walsh, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, by calling (605) 773-5559 or by email at Brian.Walsh@state.sd.us as soon as possible but no later than two business days prior to the meeting in order to ensure accommodations are available.

Under SDCL 1-26-17(7) notices must state that "if the amount in controversy exceeds $2,500.00 or if a property right may be terminated, any party to the contested case may require the agency to use the Office of Hearing Examiners by giving notice of the request to the agency no later than ten days after service of a notice of hearing issued pursuant to SDCL 1-26-17." This is a Notice of Hearing, service is being provided by publication, and the applicable date to give notice to the Chief Engineer is November 9, 2026. However, since this particular matter is a water permit application and not a monetary controversy in excess of $2,500.00 or termination of a property right the Chief Engineer disputes the applicability of this provision and maintains that the hearing must be conducted by the Board.

As applicable, the following provides the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing will be held and the particular statutes and rules pertaining to this application: SDCL 1-26-16 thru 1-26-28; SDCL 46-1-1 thru 46-1-9, 46-1-13 thru 46-1-16; 46-2-3.1, 46-2-9, 46-2-11, 46-2-17; 46-2A-1 thru 46-2A-12, 46-2A-14, 46-2A-15, 46-2A-20, 46-2A-21, 46-2A-23; 46-5-1.1, 46-5-2 thru 46-5-26, 46-5-30.2 thru 46-5-30.4, 46-5-31, 46-5-32 thru 46-5-34.1, 46-5-38 thru 46-5-39, 46-5-46, 46-5-47, 46-5-49; 46-6-1 thru 46-6-3.1, 46-6-6.1, 46-6-10, 46-6-13, 46-6-14, 46-6-21, 46-6-26; and Board Rules ARSD 74:02:01:01 thru 74:02:01:25.02; 74:02:01:35.01.

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