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November 9, 2007

Robert Roberts, Regional Administrator
US EPA Region 8
80C-EISC
1595 Wynkoop St
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Dear Administrator Roberts:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed Powertech uranium mining project in Weld County, also known as the Centennial Project. The citizens of Northern Colorado have expressed their grave concerns to me about the potential negative economic and environmental impacts that this project may have on their communities. The proposed project would be located within 30 miles of a population of approximately 300,000 people. Many are worried that the in-situ leaching (ISL) process employed at the mines will result in contamination of their groundwater.

The Environmental Protection Agency will be tasked with reviewing the project's application for an Underground Injection Control Program Class III permit. I am concerned that the scope of this review may be limited to the Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer in the immediate vicinity of the proposed mine. I seek your assurance that any potentially induced hydrogeologic connection to the larger Denver Basin aquifer system will be considered in your review and evaluation of the proposed project.

Further, I request a summary of the known history of environmental impacts from in-situ mining under EPA's Underground Injection Control Program, both in EPA Region 8 and in the continental U.S. I also request that you provide me with a summary of the cumulative experience EPA has had with remediation of aquifer excursions and other types of site contamination caused by ISL mines.

Water is our lifeblood. It is critical that the citizens of Northern Colorado receive an accurate and complete analysis of the risks that this project may pose to their groundwater. I respectfully urge you take every possible step to safeguard the water quality for the surrounding communities and citizens of Northern Colorado. I look forward to commencing a dialogue with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Salazar
United States Senator