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**INFORMATION NIGHT re: ISL uranium mine proposed by Azarga Uranium Corp. (formerly Powertech)  
at Dewey-Burdock site in Custer and Fall River Counties**

Custer, SD – Dakota Rural Action will host a Public Information Night event on Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. The event will be held at the Custer County Courthouse Annex Pine Room, 447 Crook Street, Suite #1, Custer, SD. The public is invited to attend this free event.

The focus of the event is to inform people in Custer and surrounding areas about the potential impacts of the proposed ISL uranium mine in the Dewey-Burdock area. Speakers include: Dr. Liliias Jarding, a long time researcher who has worked on uranium and natural resource issues for years; Ed Harvey, a former nuclear researcher who has spent his adult life working with nuclear reactors; as well as Bruce Ellison, attorney who works with Clean Water Alliance; as part of a panel of speakers who have vital information to share.

Background: Azarga Uranium Corp. (formerly Powertech) proposes to mine uranium in the Black Hills via the in-situ leach (ISL) process. The company also plans on building a central processing plant to process its uranium ore, as well as market its services to other regional uranium mines. Concerns include water quality and quantity issues, land contamination, endangerment of wildlife, and historical/cultural resource concerns. In addition, if Azarga receives the necessary operating permits, there are 10 other uranium companies that have expressed an interest in the Black Hills.

*“As a resident of Custer County, I have two major concerns about the proposed Dewey-Burdock in-situ uranium mining operation. First is the high volume water usage and second the likely contamination of our aquifers. If Azarga (a Chinese company) is granted water rights for this proposed mining operation they will use up to 9000 gallons of water per minute to extract uranium (this is more ground water than Rapid City uses per minute on an average day). Then when Azarga is finished mining, we will be left with contaminated water in our aquifers and there are no guarantees the water we drink and use for agriculture and recreation will be clean. There has never been an in-situ mining operation that has left the area without polluting the water.” Juli Ames-Curtis*

Dakota Rural Action’s Black Hills Chapter will host this event. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

For more info: <http://dakotarural.org/issues/uranium-mining>, or [www.bhcleanwateralliance.org](http://www.bhcleanwateralliance.org)

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Dakota Rural Action is a grassroots family agriculture and conservation group that organizes South Dakotans to protect our family farmers and ranchers, natural resources, and unique way of life.

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