

ATTN:
Fall River County Commission
906 N. River St
Hot Springs, SD 57477

September 25, 2025

To the Honorable Fall River County Commissioners:

Greetings and salutations. We, the Oglala Lakota County Commission, are writing you today in regard to the Chord uranium project proposed by Clean Nuclear Energy Corporation ("CNEC"), a subsidiary of Basin Uranium, near the rim of the area known as Craven Canyon, which is located north of Edgemont, SD.

As you may be aware, the Oglala Lakota County Commission filed a request of the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment (BM&E) to change the location of the permit hearing concerning the Chord project. Given the proposed location of the project, we believe a venue in western South Dakota would best serve all parties and provide access to and transparency around the decision-making process for Tribes and the general public. The consensus of citizen intervenors, as relayed to the OLCC, is that the hearing would be best located in Hot Springs. We respectfully urge the Commission to echo our petition to the BM&E by sending a letter requesting the venue change to Hot Springs in the interest of democracy and our shared civic duty to the public.

No matter anyone's personal opinion about mining or exploratory drilling, it is local government's explicit duty to afford citizens most impacted by this decision maximum accessibility to the discussion. The presence of 7,000-year-old glyphs carved into the wall of Craven Canyon raises the stakes of this matter to a question of preserving our shared human history across cultures. Additionally, we share the concern of a great many Fall River County residents about the full-scale uranium mining that may be a long-term outcome of the Chord drilling, as it would risk degrading the water quality and quantity of the entire region. That is far too heavy a burden for citizens of Fall River County, Tribes, and western South Dakota to bear in the midst of a massive drought stretching throughout the American West.

For the above reasons, we again respectfully urge the FRCC to submit a letter to BM&E requesting a change of venue for the intervenor hearing on the Chord project to Hot Springs. A great many citizens who share our concerns face considerable difficulty in attending hearings in Pierre. We wish to alleviate those difficulties and allow those, and all other residents access to a hearing that so deeply impacts their daily lives. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We appreciate the

Commission's engagement and look forward to a dialogue.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairwoman
Oglala Lakota County Commission