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(Regional)- US, State Agencies Review Proposed SD Uranium Mine

By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 11/19/2012 11:45 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Federal and state agencies are close to determining the fate of a proposed uranium mine in southwestern South Dakota.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a draft environmental review recommending that a license be granted for Powertech (USA) Inc.'s proposed Dewey-Burdock project near Edgemont unless a separate safety review finds reasons not to issue the license. The agency's target for a final decision on the license is June 2013.

Meanwhile, state officials expect to hold hearings next spring on Powertech's applications for a state mining permit and two water rights permits.

The project would pump a water solution underground to dissolve the uranium so it could be extracted for sale.

Environmental groups believe the mine would pollute underground water, but the company says it would not harm the environment.