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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com



(Wyo.)-Dept. Of Environmental Quality, Cameco At Odds Over Uranium Well Violation



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/22/2013 11:29 AM

GLENROCK, Wyo. (AP) - The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and a uranium company disagree whether problems occurred at a well at an in-situ mine north of Glenrock.

The DEQ has issued a violation notice against Cameco Resources, owner of the Smith Ranch-Highland uranium facility.

Wells at the facility have been drilled into uranium-bearing formations. The wells put a solution called lixiviant underground to leach uranium out of the rock.

A solution containing uranium is then pumped to the surface.

State regulators issued a violation notice in March after monitoring data showed that lixiviant may have spread from a ruptured well casing. Cameco officials shut down the well but say their own data show no leakage of mining solution.

Company spokesman Ken Vaughn says the violation was issued prematurely.