

Although Dewey Burdock's license was issued in April 2014, an admitted contention on the protection of cultural, religious, and historical resources at the site has remained unresolved since 2015. Powertech, the NRC staff, and the Oglala Sioux tribe have been engaged in an effort to identify and protect cultural, religious, and historical resources at the site in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) but have not carried out a field survey because of disputes over the methodology for the work. An agreed-upon plan to conduct a field survey at the site in June 2018 was halted when the Oglala Sioux tribe submitted an alternative methodology days before the work was to begin. After stopping work, the NRC staff filed for an evidentiary hearing to dismiss the contention, arguing that it had done "all that it reasonably could" to resolve the NEPA deficiencies that had been identified by the ASLB.

■ The deadline for public comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's revised draft permits for planned Class III and Class V Underground Injection Control activities at Dewey Burdock has been extended from October 10 to December 9 (NN, Oct. 2019, p. 68).

The EPA released the draft permits for two underground injection control area permits and one proposed aquifer exemption decision on August 26. A public hearing was held on October 5 in Hot Springs, S.D.

In addition to comments on the draft area permits, the EPA is seeking comments on other aspects of the project, including the identification of traditional cultural properties at the site; measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic and traditional cultural properties; and a revised draft environmental justice analysis.

■ Fission Uranium on September 23 announced the results of a prefeasibility study for an underground-only mining scenario for its Patterson Lake South property in Canada's Athabasca Basin region. The study follows an earlier prefeasibility study that outlined a hybrid approach using both open pit and underground mining (NN, June 2019, p. 58).

The underground-only plan would have a construction timeline of three years, as opposed to four years for the hybrid plan, and it would reduce capital costs by 21 percent over a seven-year production life. Because the underground-only plan eliminates the need for a ring dyke, slurry wall, dewatering, and overburden removal, it has the potential for reduced environmental impacts, according to Fission.

"The report highlights important potential advantages to the underground approach, including large reductions in capital expenditure, construction time,



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**AZIsotopes (AZI)** is establishing a Medical Isotopes Production and Research Facility in Miami County, Indiana featuring a high-current 70-MeV proton cyclotron—with additional accelerators and research facilities in the planning stage. Applications from qualified persons are being accepted to fill immediate position openings:

**Chief Operations Officer** – Advanced degree in Nuclear Physics, Nuclear Engineering, or equivalent; substantive experience in management and modification of high-energy particle accelerator facilities, research, and management of large nuclear projects.

**Deputy Chief Operations Officer** – Advanced degree in Nuclear Chemistry or equivalent; substantive experience in planning and management of protocols for production of radioisotopes (including nuclear medicine isotopes); research and development on chemical processing of radioactive materials; as well as packaging and shipment of radioactive isotopes, and meeting FDA licensing requirements.

**Facility Safety Officer** – Advanced degree in Nuclear Physics or equivalent with Certifications in Health Physics, Industrial Safety, and Security; substantive experience with high-energy particle accelerators and NRC licensing requirements.

The work location will be at **AZI's** facility (under construction) at 7796 South Innovation Way, Bunker Hill, Miami County, Indiana.

Interested persons should provide a detailed resume, list of publications, and three references. Address communications to: Clyde Jupiter at **AZI**. E-mail: [cjupiter@azisocorp.com](mailto:cjupiter@azisocorp.com). Phone: 202-255-2002.