

Feb. 7, 2010

Greg Bird

Mined Land Reclamation Board
Attn: Irene Stanton
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

RE: *Rulemaking for ISL and Mining*

Dear Ms. Stanton,


Thank you for considering my concerns on the current rules proposed for hard rock mining operations, mineral rules and regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board in Colorado.

The current state of the draft rules don't seem to fully appreciate the technological benefits involved in situ leach mining. The technology involved should be utilized to safely extract our mineral resources wherever possible. In many respects, these rules seem to be drafted to encourage the use of traditional open pit mining instead of environmentally sensitive ISL techniques. That makes no sense. Why would Colorado prefer those methods over the more benign process of ISL? But, that is exactly what you'll get if these rules are implemented in their nonsensical current form.

No harm will come from the universally used sequential method of determining baseline. More data leads to greater precision - plain and simple. Revise the rules to conform to the practical progression of determining baseline. Arguments posed that insinuate that operators seek to lower baseline requirements by adding data after production begins would be laughable if they weren't being taken seriously by the drafters of these rules. It is time we look past the ideological arguments posed by those that wish to strangle our economy with unrealistic regulatory schemes. ISL is the best technology to extract Colorado's minerals. We should encourage its safe use.

No gain will come from allowing third parties to gain access to prospecting and exploring activities. Until a benefit that exceeds the cost is proven to come from their involvement, third parties must be excluded from the permitting and exploration processes. To date, no benefit whatsoever has been shown. Permitting and exploration must remain confidential.

Sincerely,



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Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety