

From: Dan Blakeman
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 2:02 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board - Notice of Public Rulemaking Hearing

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I read with great interest the posted comments regarding the proposed rulemaking. The majority of the comments are impassioned requests to stop all in-situ recovery (ISR) projects outright or make the permitting process so difficult that the projects will never move forward. Federal law protects the rights of owners to develop their resources. Of course this must be done in a responsible and law abiding manner.

Uranium must play an important role in our country's energy policy and ISR methods can safely recover uranium with minimal impact to the environment compared with open pit or underground mining methods. Use of uranium to power electricity generating plants is safe and has a considerably smaller carbon footprint than the burning of fossil fuels.

The general sentiment seems to be "Not in my backyard." Let's consider what people prefer to have in their backyards. Backyards generally contain automobiles, concrete, outdoor lighting, barbeque grills, watering systems, water on tap, buildings, fences and hundreds of other modern conveniences. None of these would be available without mining, natural gas and petroleum production, electrical energy and the infrastructure to provide the services.

My view is that uranium is a critical resource that should be produced. ISR methods of uranium extraction can produce the uranium with near zero impact to the surface features and underground water resources. It seems that this is the perfect method for producing a critical resource near a populated area.

I urge you to promulgate the new rules based on the current laws, rights of landowners, scientific principles and best available technologies to ensure safe and clean operations. Please reject the claims of others based simply on emotion which is unsubstantiated by scientific fact and special interest groups with their own anti-development agendas.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Blakeman

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