



General Assembly  
State of Colorado  
Denver

March 15, 2010

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

Dear Members of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board:

The undersigned Colorado legislators submit this letter to provide input to the Board regarding the proposed revisions to the Board's Mineral Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations. These revisions stem from two strongly bi-partisan pieces of legislation we sponsored and passed in 2008: HB 08-1161, which increased regulatory authority of the Board over uranium mining operations, and SB 08-228, which eliminated the blanket confidentiality for mineral prospecting operations. These pieces of legislation, and the rules now being finalized, are of critical importance to the protection of local communities and scarce water resources, as well the long-term economic viability of Colorado's mining industry.

The purpose of HB 08-1161 was to establish an effective regulatory structure within the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety for in-situ leach mining operations, which have never before been attempted on a commercial scale in Colorado, and for which no specific statutory or regulatory provisions existed at the state level. Central among the reasons for crafting the legislation as was done, was to ensure that the apparent mistakes that have been made in other states, which have led to degradation of ground water quality, were not allowed to repeat themselves in Colorado. Central among these concerns was the ability in other states for in-situ leach uranium mine operators to continually petition the state or federal regulators for repeated relaxations of the applicable ground water restoration standards, even after mining operations had begun. We believe that the better approach, as enacted via HB 08-1161, is to ensure clear and concrete ground water protection standards at the outset of the mine permitting process. This is why HB 08-1161 required a "thorough" and "scientifically defensible" baseline site characterization as part of an in-situ leach uranium mining application, upon which the reclamation standards are based. As a result, the law provides local communities, water users, and the mining industry with a very clear understanding on the front end of mining activity what the reclamation standards will be for affected groundwater. This allows for the protection of these critical water supplies, while also protecting private property rights held by mining interests.

SB 08-228 was designed to bring Colorado in line with other western states by eliminating the complete confidentiality that previously existed in Colorado law for pre-mining prospecting work, aimed at identifying and exploring for mineral ore deposits extended to the life of the project.

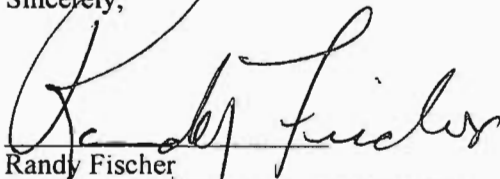
This new provision of law balances the interests of the affected communities and mining interests by ensuring the availability of information about potential impacts from prospecting activities, while keeping legitimate, competitive, trade-secret information confidential. It is our understanding that current Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety policy allows for public comments on such pre-mining activities, to the extent they raise credible questions or issues as to the necessary protection of natural resources through adequate reclamation standards or as to protections for taxpayers through adequate reclamation bonding. Such a policy properly allows for public evaluation and input, but does not burden the state's professional staff with having to address other concerns not connected to the technical reclamation and bonding standards.

With respect to the ongoing revisions to the regulations implementing HB 08-1161 and SB 08-228, we urge the Board to carry forward the principles discussed above. The rules should maintain the legislative intent to ensure ground water protections for in-situ leach uranium mining by requiring a thorough and scientifically defensible baseline site characterization as part of a mining application, and establish clear and concrete groundwater restoration standards on the front end. Further, the public should be provided effective access to prospecting proposal information, and be allowed to submit comment on prospecting activities as is consistent with current Division practice.

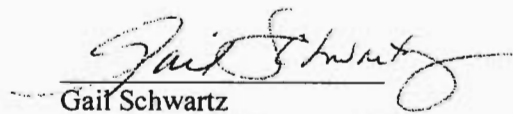
Lastly, we encourage the Board to strongly consider granting the public administrative review of prospecting. SB 08-228 did not expressly provide for this opportunity. However, the Mined Land Reclamation Act does expressly provide the Board with the authority to create such a process: "Any person aggrieved by any final action of the office may file an appeal of such action with the board." Given that the scope of the Board's current rulemaking includes amending and correcting current practice or procedure, we think such a change is appropriate at this time. The Board could provide more regulatory certainty and cost-savings for the State of Colorado by providing administrative review at the agency level rather than relying on state court litigation under the Colorado Administrative Procedure Act as the sole option for aggrieved parties to seek review will provide.

We thank the Board, and the Division, for the open and inclusive process through which the revisions to the Board's new rules have been proposed. We look forward to reviewing the Board's final rules.

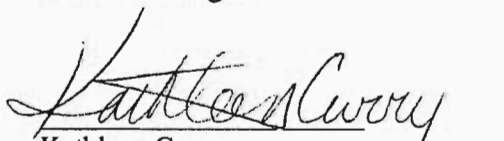
Sincerely,



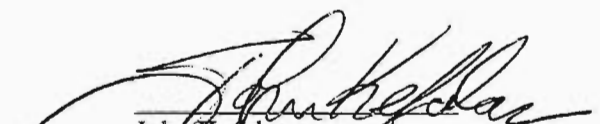
Randy Fischer  
Chair, Agriculture & Natural Resources  
House District 53



Gail Schwartz  
Chair, Local Government & Energy  
State Senate District 5



Kathleen Curry  
State Representative, House District 61



John Kefalas  
State Representative, House District 52

**RECEIVED**

MAR 15 2010

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board,

1. On June 10, 2008, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Ault adopted Resolution No. 2008-06 expressing the Board's strong opposition to in-situ uranium mining in the northern Colorado area. The resolution addresses the risk of ground water contamination and the potential for in-situ uranium mining "to be injurious to the health, safety and/or welfare of all residents in the area and to do irreparable harm to the economic well-being of the northern Colorado area."

As revisions are made in the rules and regulations for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations, I strongly hope the rulemaking will include the harmonizing of House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS FROM GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION. I also hope that all stages of the prospecting and mining process allow for comment by the public and local government.

Phil Tidwell

Trustee

Ault Town Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trustee Phil Tidwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.



City Manager's Office  
300 LaPorte Avenue  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
970.221-6505  
970.224-6107 - fax  
fcgov.com

March 15, 2010

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

RE: City of Fort Collins Written Public Comments in the Matter of Proposed Changes to the Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations, 2 CCR 407-1

To the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the Division's proposed rules to implement the provisions of HB 08-1161 concerning uranium mining and SB 08-228 concerning prospecting. The City of Fort Collins appreciates the efforts of the Division to address the concerns of interested parties regarding uranium mining and prospecting activities and to implement the intent of the legislation to protect and restore groundwater resources potentially impacted by In-situ leach uranium mining operations.

Because In-situ uranium mining technology has inherent risks and has the potential to contaminate groundwater and degrade natural groundwater conditions, it is vital that the application and permitting process be comprehensive and open to public comment to ensure all public concerns are addressed. In addition, the application and permitting process for In-situ uranium mining must address protection and reclamation of groundwater resources to ensure that current and future uses of groundwater resources are protected.

The regulations proposed by the Division demonstrate an effort to implement the intent of this legislation regarding high standards for protection and restoration of groundwater resources potentially impacted by In-situ leach uranium mining activities. The City substantially supports the rules proposed by the Division, particularly the following:

1. Allowing a public comment period for notices of intent to conduct prospecting and posting notices of intent on the Division's website.
2. Allowing a public comment period on baseline site characterization and monitoring plans for In-situ leach mining operations.
3. Designating all uranium mines as Designated Mining Operations (DMOs) unless otherwise exempted.

4. Providing specific requirements for In-situ leach mining including the applicant's demonstrated history of compliance with environmental regulations and substantial evidence that the applicant will reclaim groundwater affected by the mining operations for established water quality standards in order to protect future uses of groundwater resources.

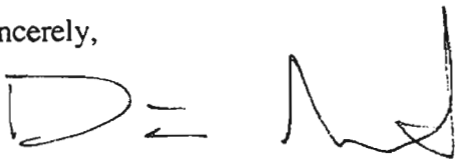
The City's concerns with the rules proposed by the Division are as follows:

1. The proposed rules, although they provide an additional public comment in order to incorporate concerns of stakeholders, does not provide sufficient time to review and respond to information contained in the notice of intent and the baseline site characterization and monitoring plans. The City proposes that the public comment period be extended beyond ten working days to 20 working days or more in order to allow for sufficient response from stakeholders.
2. The proposed rules should confirm the availability of the appeal process regarding the Division's decisions concerning baseline site characterization and monitoring plans. The appeal process should be implemented in order to fully consider public comment at every step of the application and permitting process.
3. The proposed rules should confirm that all operators of In-situ uranium mines are subject to Designated Mining Operation (DMO) requirements. Given the nature of In-situ leach uranium mining processes and the potential for adverse impacts to groundwater quality, In-situ mines should be subjected to all application and permitting requirements that may be available within the applicable regulations.

The City of Fort Collins appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed rules. Your consideration of our comments is greatly appreciated. If you have additional questions, please contact:

Carol Webb  
Regulatory and Government Affairs Manager  
970-221-6231  
[cwebb@fcgov.com](mailto:cwebb@fcgov.com)

Sincerely,



Darin Atteberry  
City Manager

cc: Carrie Daggett, Deputy City Attorney  
Carol Webb, Regulatory and Government Affairs Manager  
John Stokes, Natural Areas Director  
Brian Janonis, Utilities Executive Director

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Stephan Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 12:19 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a ?designated mining operation? and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Matt Stephan

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Arturo Ayala Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 5:48 AM  
To: Stanton, Irene  
Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
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- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Arturo Ayala

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Ronald W. Stevenson Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 6:28 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
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- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Ronald W. Stevenson

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Adopt strong uranium mining rules to protect Colorado's water

-----Original Message-----

From: On Behalf Of benet art

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 7:26 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Adopt strong uranium mining rules to protect Colorado's water

Mar 15, 2010

Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board members  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mined Land Reclamation Board members,

I urge the board to adopt rules that ensure the strongest environmental and public health protection of groundwater quality from uranium mining operations and to ensure full public involvement and transparency at all stages of mining development.

Protecting our water quality is critical for Colorado's environmental and economic health. Taking the lead among states, in 2008 Colorado established strong groundwater restoration standards for uranium mining; these standards are set according to the baseline groundwater characterization of an aquifer affected by mining.

The Mined Land Reclamation Board rules should accurately reflect the spirit and letter of these requirements, and ensure that the baseline and the resulting groundwater restoration standards are clearly defined prior to any mine exploration, prospecting or development. Further, once the pre-mining baseline site characterization is established, the rules should preclude changes to that baseline once exploration or mineral development activity begins. Lastly, the rules should confirm the requirement in the law that all uranium mining operations abide by the protective "designated mining operation" standards enacted after the Summitville Mine disaster for operations with potential to threaten local water quality.

I also urge the board to adopt rules that expressly provide the affected public and local governments the opportunity both to submit comments and to seek administrative review of prospecting approvals.

Sincerely,

Mr. benet art

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Trina Jacobson Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 7:55 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
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- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Trina Jacobson

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicole Kernohan  
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 8:00 AM  
To: Stanton, Irene  
Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

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- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Nicole Kernohan

**Stanton, Irene**

---

**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Botinelly

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 8:12 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

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\* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.

\* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Bill Botinelly

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Seth Taplin Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 9:33 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

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- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Seth Taplin

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristyn Farris Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 10:12 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

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- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Kristyn Farris

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Shipley Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 10:26 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

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- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Brian Shipley

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Herrera

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:20 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

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Very sincerely,

Lisa Herrera

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Keaton Haire  
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:18 AM  
To: Stanton, Irene  
Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

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Very sincerely,  
Keaton Haire

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Stacey Pcikering

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:35 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

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Very sincerely,

Stacey Pcikering

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Scott

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:41 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

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Very sincerely,

Ann Marie Scott

**Stanton, Irene**

---

**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Erica Montague

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:47 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

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Very sincerely,

Erica Montague

## Stanton, Irene

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Anita Forsyth Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 12:35 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

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Very sincerely,

Anita Forsyth

**Stanton, Irene**

---

**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe DE Cordoba Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 12:57 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

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Very sincerely,

Joe DE Cordoba

**Stanton, Irene**

---

**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Katy Kohnen

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 1:01 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

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Very sincerely,

Katy Kohnen

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Lara Doudreaux Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 1:35 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a "designated mining operation" and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Lara Doudreaux

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: DRMS Rulemaking

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Seidel Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 1:48 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Cc: ericseidel10@gmail.com

Subject: DRMS Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Stanton,

I see you've received quite a few comments that are exactly alike, and all oppose mining in Colorado. Although those comments may number in more than a thousand, in my view they don't add a lot of substance to the discussion about the practical effect these rules will have on protecting the environment and stifling business in this state. There needs to be an appropriate balance and it appears many of these rules will have a disastrous impact on the mining industry but not offer additional protections. Such a scheme does not make sense for us, especially at this time when our economy is suffering badly from over broad regulations.

To investigate an ore body, a miner must first perform prospecting activities. Only when the miner determines the economic viability of the ore can they move on to mining activities. It is at that time that baseline data collection and characterization should be performed. The proposed rules turn this process upside down in such a way that mining in Colorado may be uneconomical - without offering a compensating protection for this upheaval.

Also, the rules need to recognize that baseline site characterization may require revision during mining to reflect circumstances encountered during development. This is not adjusting the baselines after the fact as mining opponents claim. This is adjusting the baselines to more accurately reflect the site characteristics using new data.

There are a few other items that give me pause in the new rules, as well. Your "blacklist" provision is far too broad and should be narrowed; the word potentially should be removed from the affected water provision; and bonding should only be required for activities that are actually allowed under the permit being bonded. I hope you can realize that these provisions do not need lengthy explanation to see that a dash of common sense is in order.

Sincerely,

Eric Seidel

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Smigelsky Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 1:57 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

Please, please, please listen to the people of Colorado who absolutely want health for ourselves and the generations of children to come!

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a ?designated mining operation? and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Anne Smigelsky

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Sidney Q. Sisk Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 2:37 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a "designated mining operation" and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely, Sidney Q. Sisk

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: William E. Lewis Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 2:40 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a ?designated mining operation? and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions. We must do all we can to insure the health of our current and future population; this bill will make a significant contribution to that end.

Very sincerely,

William E. Lewis

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposed revisions to the MLRB Mineral Rules and Regulations  
**Attachments:** MLRB 1161 & 228.doc  
**Importance:** High

15 March 2010

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

Dear Members of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board,

I am submitting comments on the proposed revisions to the Board's Mineral Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations **in my own behalf**. I urge the Board to adopt rules ensuring protection of ground water quality from in situ leach uranium mining operations which allow full public and local government involvement at all stages of the process.

Two years ago, Colorado House Bill 08-1161 mandated strong groundwater restoration standards for in situ leach uranium mining. Protection of water quality is critical to Colorado's long-term public and economic health. This law requires mining proponents to establish a "thorough" and "scientifically defensible" characterization of baseline site conditions - including for groundwater quality. The baseline groundwater characterization is critical because the established baseline sets the standards for restoration of impacted groundwater, hence:

- MLRB Rules **MUST** accurately reflect the spirit and letter of these requirements to ensure the baseline, as well as the resulting groundwater restoration standards, are clearly defined prior to **any** exploration, prospecting, or development, and
- once the baseline site characterization is established, the Rules **MUST** preclude changes to the baseline once exploration or development activity commences. (Note that additional clarifications could be maintained a SECOND document, PARALLELING the baseline, as additional information became available.)

Next, the Rules **MUST** also establish a monitoring plan which mandates at least the corroboration of ALL parameters measured by the baseline groundwater characterization, and which requires this corroboration on a frequency adequate for immediate site remediation - should the mining process go awry (i.e., outside of the planned effects from that mining operation).

Finally, the Rules **MUST** also confirm the requirement in the law that all uranium mining operations abide by the protective "designated mining operation" standards enacted following the Summitville Mine disaster for operations with potential to threaten local water quality.

Also two years ago, Colorado Senate Bill 08-228 established a process for **both the public and local governments** to be notified about mineral prospecting activities when proposed. The new MLRB Rules **MUST** clarify and endorse the current Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety practice of accepting public and local government comments on prospecting activities. It's clear that these pre-mining activities have the potential to impact communities and water quality. Current Board rules

expressly recognize the significant role for local government in the review and permitting of prospecting proposals by requiring all prospecting activities to comply with local government regulations. (Rule 5.3.6, Compliance with Other Laws). I urge the Board to adopt rules which expressly provide the public and local governments the opportunity to submit comments, **as well as to seek administrative review of prospecting proposals.**

Yours,

Kirby Hughes

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Adopt strong uranium mining rules to protect Colorado's water

-----Original Message-----

From: On Behalf Of Larry Nygaard  
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 5:28 PM  
To: Stanton, Irene  
Subject: Adopt strong uranium mining rules to protect Colorado's water

Mar 15, 2010

Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board members  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mined Land Reclamation Board members,

I urge the board to adopt rules that ensure the strongest environmental and public health protection of groundwater quality from uranium mining operations and to ensure full public involvement and transparency at all stages of mining development.

Protecting our water quality is critical for Colorado's environmental and economic health. Taking the lead among states, in 2008 Colorado established strong groundwater restoration standards for uranium mining; these standards are set according to the baseline groundwater characterization of an aquifer affected by mining.

The Mined Land Reclamation Board rules should accurately reflect the spirit and letter of these requirements, and ensure that the baseline and the resulting groundwater restoration standards are clearly defined prior to any mine exploration, prospecting or development. Further, once the pre-mining baseline site characterization is established, the rules should preclude changes to that baseline once exploration or mineral development activity begins. Lastly, the rules should confirm the requirement in the law that all uranium mining operations abide by the protective "designated mining operation" standards enacted after the Summitville Mine disaster for operations with potential to threaten local water quality.

I also urge the board to adopt rules that expressly provide the affected public and local governments the opportunity both to submit comments and to seek administrative review of prospecting approvals.

Sincerely,

Mr. Larry Nygaard

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Lunsford [mailto:stevelu@tribcsp.com]

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 6:22 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of uranium mining done responsibly. Uranium mining is the most regulated mining industry in our nation. If the regulators oversee the mining operations according to existing laws then the public will be protected properly.

Very sincerely,

Stephen Lunsford

**Stanton, Irene**

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: tomas zuccareno [mailto:zphoto@sopris.net]

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 7:43 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a ?designated mining operation? and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

tomas zuccareno

## Stanton, Irene

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**Subject:** FW: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

-----Original Message-----

From: Ray Rowe Sent: Monday, March 15, 2010 9:36 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Protect Colorado From Uranium Mining

Dear Ms. Stanton:

I am writing to you today in support of protecting our water and our lands from the impacts of uranium mining and to ensure that the public is heard on issues of mine prospecting.

The final rules for House Bill 08-1161 and Senate Bill 08-228 should adhere to the following principles:

- \* Uranium companies should be held accountable for cleaning up their mess and returning groundwater quality to its original state that existed before any mining or mine prospecting took place.
- \* All uranium companies should play by the rules as a "designated mining operation" and submit environmental plans to minimize the impacts of toxic uranium pollution on our land, water and communities.
- \* The public, local governments, and other stakeholders must be notified about mine prospecting activities and have the right to submit comments on proposed prospecting permits.
- \* The public and stakeholders should have the ability to appeal mine prospecting permit decisions to ensure that the environment and public health are protected in those decisions.

Very sincerely,

Ray Rowe