

Stanton, Irene

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

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

From: On Behalf Of Adrian Romero

Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 10:11 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

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

Mar 3, 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. Adrian Romero

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: SB08-228

From: Kate Vogel
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 10:54 AM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: SB08-228

Dear Members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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

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

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

Please ensure that the public's right to know about mine proposals, to comment on their potential impacts and to appeal mine decisions is clarified in the Hardrock Mining rules.

I live about 1 mile from Mt. Emmons, in Crested Butte, Colorado, and this rule is very important to the health and survival of our town.

Very sincerely,

Kathryn Vogel

Kate Vogel

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

Doug christ

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 12:15 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

Ann Gibson



TOWN OF WELLINGTON

3735 CLEVELAND AVENUE
P.O. BOX 127
WELLINGTON, CO 80549
TOWN HALL (970) 568-3381
FAX (970) 568-9354

February 26, 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:

The Town of Wellington submits these comments on the proposed revisions to the Board's Mineral Rules and Regulations for Hard Rock, Metal, and Designated Mining Operations. Specifically, we urge the Board to adopt rules that ensure protection of ground water quality from in situ leach uranium mining operations and that ensure full public and local government involvement at all stages of mining development.

Colorado House Bill 08-1161, enacted in 2008, established strong groundwater restoration standards for in situ leach uranium mining in the state of Colorado. Protection of water quality is critical for Colorado's long-term cultural and economic health. The law requires that mining proponents establish a "thorough" and "scientifically defensible" characterization of baseline site conditions, including for groundwater quality. This baseline groundwater characterization is of critical importance, because the established baseline sets the standards for restoration of an impacted aquifer. The MLRB 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 begins. Further, once the pre-mining baseline site characterization is established, the Rules should preclude changes to that baseline once exploration or development activity commences. 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.

Colorado Senate Bill 08-228, also enacted in 2008, established a process for the public and local governments to be notified about mineral prospecting activities as they are proposed. The MLRB Rules should clarify and endorse the

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MAR 03 2010

Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

current Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety practice of accepting public and local government comments on prospecting activities. The importance of providing for public and local government input into the consideration of prospecting activities cannot be overstated. It is well-established that such pre-mining activities have the potential to result in concrete impact to communities and water quality. In fact, the current Board rules expressly recognize the significant role for local government in the review and permitting of prospecting proposals by requiring that all prospecting activities also comply with local government regulations. (Rule 5.3.6 Compliance with Other Laws). It would be nonsensical and counterproductive to expressly require compliance with local government regulations for prospecting activities on one hand, yet preclude public and local government input on conditions for such activities on the other. We 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Lofentzen', written over a horizontal line.

Larry Lofentzen
Town Administrator/Clerk

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 12:40 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

Justin Peterson

Stanton, Irene

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

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

From: On Behalf Of Kevin Brown

Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 12:42 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

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

Mar 3, 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. Kevin Brown

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 2:15 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

Kara Beebee

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 2:35 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

sharon simmons

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 4:40 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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.

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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,

Barbara Drake

Stanton, Irene

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

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

From: On Behalf Of Joe j

Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 4:43 PM

To: Stanton, Irene

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

Mar 3, 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. Joe j

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 5:00 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

Susan Dixon

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: DRMS Hardrock Mining, Prospecting, and Bonding Rulemaking

From: Wayne Roys
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 8:48 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: DRMS Hardrock Mining, Prospecting, and Bonding Rulemaking

Dear Mrs. Stanton:

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) is drafting rules (Rules) to the Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board) for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. The DRMS and the Board should be careful that these Rules do not impose unreasonable requirements on mining operators in Colorado. To do so would violate the spirit of Colorado public policy and further drive our economy into recession. We need practical and common sense Rules.

To change the statute's language from covering "affected water" to "potentially affected water" is not practical. We know that mining opponents will seize upon this word and litigate it with the intent of making *all* water fall within the "potentially" standard. Simply remove the word "potentially" and any, and all, affected water will be protected.

It seems you are implementing a very broad "blackball" provision that will unduly prevent people from gainful employment in our state. This provision should be removed altogether, but at a minimum it should only remove a person from our workforce after proof of actual harm to a person.

The bonding provision that would require a prospector to submit a bond that covers future mining activities makes no sense. The bond only needs to cover the prospecting activities. I was quite surprised the draft Rules had this as a starting point for public discussion.

Were these draft Rules written with a complete disregard for 100 years of mining law in Colorado? I hope common sense prevails and the DRMS does not become a puppet of, supposed, environmental groups.

Sincerely,

Wayne Roys

Stanton, Irene

Subject: FW: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

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

From:
Sent: Wednesday, March 03, 2010 10:10 PM
To: Stanton, Irene
Subject: Re: HB08-1161 & SB08-228 rulemaking

Dear members of the Mined Land Reclamation Board:

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,

John Spear

Bill Bibbey

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

Mining Rulemaking

Dear Ms Stanton,

I submit this comment, because I believe there are a few deficiencies in the current draft rules. I believe your office is doing a good job, overall. However, we need to make sure these rules are as effective as possible. The main problem I see is that the line between prospecting and mining is blurred.

These are two related – but very different – activities. Prospecting occurs before mining, of course. The purpose of prospecting is to determine whether an economically viable mineral is present and available for extraction. If this question is answered in the affirmative, you move onto mining and production.

One place where this line is blurred is in the bonding requirements. Bonding can be very expensive – especially now that money is so tight and financial markets are still reeling. A reasonable system would require bonding for prospecting activities. Then, if the mineral was found to be economic, the company would apply for a mining permit and bond for the mining.

Under the proposed rules, a company would have to bond – up front – for all prospecting and potential future mining at the site. This will make bonding extremely expensive at a time when the operator doesn't even know if the project will be economically viable. It simply adds economic risk to the operation with no discernable benefit to the public or the environment.

Therefore, I ask that you strike this provision and make sure the rules recognize the differences between prospecting and mining. It is in the State's best interest, I believe, to encourage prospecting. This way, the best and most economic mineral deposits will be found and developed. Making prospecting more expensive will only discourage the practice, moving mineral development to other states or countries.

In addition to that change, several others must be considered. First, baseline determination should be finalized after the operator has his permit. That way, we can ensure the most complete

set of data is used for each well field. Second, the word "potentially" should be removed from the Rules in the affected water section. Third, your blacklist provision should be narrowed.

Sincerely,

Bill Bihney