

# C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER

Late January, 2008



## Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

CARD, PO Box 143, Wellington, CO 80549, 970-372-0029 (leave message) [www.nunnglow.com](http://www.nunnglow.com)

### Lawmakers Introduce Mining Legislation

A bipartisan group of state legislators, including Representatives Randy Fischer and John Kefalas, D-Fort Collins and Senators Bob Bacon, D-Fort Collins, Steve Johnson, R-Fort Collins and Brandon Shaffer, D-Longmont, introduced new legislation on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, aimed at tightening mining regulations in Colorado.

**HB 1161** would require all in-situ leach mining of uranium to restore all affected surface and groundwater to its pre-mining quality. (Bipartisan effort)

**HB 1165** would require mining companies to inform residents of mining activity taking place within 3 miles of their property. The bill also requires local governments to protect local water sources from mining activities. (Democrat support.)

Go to [www.nunnglow.com](http://www.nunnglow.com) for summaries and complete text of the two bills. There are also links to news coverage of the issue.

The website has contact information for all our elected officials. Contact them and ask them to vote for HB 08-1161 and help protect communities and our water. Let them know that they have your support. Please also consider letters to the editor, blog contributions and other means of participating in the public debate and demonstrating that 21st century mining laws are of major importance and concern for Northern Colorado. And last, but not least, let your friends and neighbors know about the legislation and what they can do to support it.

### Meetings

#### February 5, 2008: Resolutions to Take to Your Precinct Caucus

Your precinct caucus is basically a neighborhood meeting about issues and candidates. This year, precinct caucuses take place on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:00 PM. You must be there by 7:00 PM to participate, and you have to be a registered voter with a party affiliation.

Precinct caucuses are a great opportunity for people to introduce resolutions on uranium issues. Anyone can introduce a resolution. People at that caucus vote on it and, if it passes, the resolution is passed along to the County party's convention. If it passes there, it goes on to the State party's convention. The more precincts pass a resolution, the more likely that it will go to the next level.

You should also try to become a delegate to the County and State conventions, so you can promote your resolution at the next level.

Here are some resolutions. You can introduce one or all of them. The more, the merrier!

1. Resolved that our state legislators should support House Bill 08-1161 to protect our water from uranium mining.
2. Resolved that our state legislators should support House Bill 08-1165 to protect citizens from irresponsible uranium mining, make uranium exploration permits public, and give our local officials a say in the mining permit process.
3. Resolved that the citizens of precinct number (fill in number here) strongly oppose uranium mining in Colorado.
4. Resolved that our county officials should oppose any proposal to mine uranium in our county.
5. Resolved that our state legislators ban in situ leach mining of uranium in Colorado.
6. Resolved that elected officials at all levels of government in Colorado should pass resolutions strongly opposing proposals to mine, mill, or enrich uranium in our state.

To be sure you are registered to vote and to find out what precinct you are in, go to: <http://www.sos.state.co.us/Voter/voterHome.do>. Copy the whole precinct number, but you may only need the last three digits to figure out where to go for your caucus.

To find out where your precinct caucus is being held, go to:

<http://www.larimerdems.org/caucus2008.html> if you are a Larimer County Democrat

[http://www.larimergop.org/files/Published\\_Locations\\_20080117.pdf](http://www.larimergop.org/files/Published_Locations_20080117.pdf) if you are a Larimer County Republican

<http://www.weldcountygop.info/node/136> if you are a Weld County Republican

<http://www.weldcountydems.org/> if you are a Weld County Democrat

Encourage your friends who oppose uranium mining to attend. Let's pass resolutions in every precinct in northern Colorado!

### **February 12, 2008: Wellington Town Meeting**

A town meeting is scheduled at the River of Life Fellowship, 3161 W. County Road 62 E., Wellington at 7:00 P.M. CARD is doing petition drives in Wellington every weekend up to the time of the meeting.

### **February 25, 2008: Larimer County Commissioners Hearing**

Larimer County Commissioners have scheduled a public hearing on uranium mining on February 25, 2008 at 6:30 PM. Location is the Larimer County Courthouse Offices Building (NOT the Justice Center), 1st floor Commissioner's Hearing Room at 200 West Oak, Fort Collins. This forum will be broadcast live via City Cable Channel 14.

## Update: Mining Law of 1872

The Senate Energy Committee held its second hearing on reform of the mining law of 1872 on January 24, 2008. After the meeting, Senator Ken Salazar (D) stated in a press release (excerpted): “Responsible development of our mineral resources is critical to our economy and our environment... We must find a balanced approach to reform that will ensure mineral development occurs in a manner consistent with the needs of mining communities and the **protection of the environment and public lands, particularly our water resources.**

...I believe there is consensus that the hard-rock mining industry – like the oil, gas, and coal industries – must pay some kind of **royalty or rent** for the right to extract mineral resources from our public lands. The lack of a federal revenue stream from mining operations on federal lands has particularly hindered efforts to address the critical issue of the environmental, health, and safety risks posed by abandoned mines.

...Finally, I am committed to making **cleanup** of abandoned and inactive mines a priority in this legislation. The EPA estimates that there are half a million abandoned mines around the nation, and that the cost of cleaning them up could approach \$50 billion.”

## EPA Responds to Salazar on Uranium

The regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency has responded to a letter sent last year by Senator Ken Salazar (D), expressing concern about proposed uranium mining in Weld County.

The EPA letter details regulatory processes for in-situ recovery mining, which uses treated water to dissolve underground material and pump it to the surface, and potential environmental impacts of the mining process. Salazar stated in a news release he would continue to monitor the issue and the EPA's role in the permitting process.

## Organization and Website of Interest to Well Owners

Protect Our Wells is a Colorado non-profit, citizen-based organization formed to advocate the interests of county residents with private wells into the Denver Basin Aquifers.

In El Paso County, the Denver Basin includes most of the northeastern part of the County east of the Front Range. Water from the four Denver Basin Aquifers - the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe and Laramie-Fox Hills - supplies most of the water for the Tri-Lakes Area, all of the water for the Black Forest, and much of the water for the Falcon and northeastern El Paso County area. The City of Colorado Springs also owns and uses Denver Basin water. To the north, municipalities and private wells in eight other counties (Douglas, Elbert, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Denver, Weld, Adams, and Morgan) also draw groundwater from the Denver Basin.

The El Paso County Commissioners and some Metropolitan Water Districts have an intergovernmental agreement to participate in the El Paso County Water Authority. In June 2003, they released a report entitled "El Paso County Water Report" which suggests interim and long-term solutions for El Paso County's water supplies, including items addressing the use of Denver Basin groundwater. The executive summary and the full report are available.

We believe input from private well owners into the water planning process is essential, and that is the primary reason for the formation of Protect Our Wells. Other reasons are to assemble data on the status of Denver Basin aquifers and to advocate conservation of this water as development occurs, to have a group that can work with local well owners and various levels of government, and which can help in water conservation education.

## Update: Powertech Presence in Wellington

Northern Colorado Business Report announced on January 11, 2008 that British Columbia-based Powertech Uranium Corporation had leased office space in Wellington and made official the appointment of the management team that will direct the permit application process over the next two years.

Terence Walsh has been named project manager and Michael Beshore will serve as senior environmental coordinator. Both are Fort Collins residents.

The company also announced the move of its Colorado headquarters from Centennial to a larger office complex in Greenwood Village.

## Powertech Stock in Free Fall

Excerpts from a posting on the [www.powertechexposed.com](http://www.powertechexposed.com) website, January 21, 2008 and updated January 25, 2008: **Shares fall below \$1.00 US for first time since company switched from water heaters to uranium; investors may not like proposed Colorado mining laws.**

The Frankfurt Exchange experienced heavy trading in Powertech stock...P8A.F shares dropped 9.33% to 0.69 euros, an all-time low for the company on the German exchange. Canadian shares (PWE.TO) listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange fell 10.53 % to \$1.02 Canadian dollars, or \$0.99 US.

Powertech stock is at its lowest point since the company sold off its water heater manufacturing operations and handed the reins over to Dick Clement and Wallace Mays in May 2006 to transform it into a uranium development company.

A possible factor contributing to the decline is the realization by investors that Colorado mining laws may soon change. Proposed changes would include a requirement that Powertech and other in-situ leaching operators prove that their marketing claims of ISL mining being completely safe and environmentally benign are true before a permit is issued...

## Uranium Problems in Texas

Excerpts from an article by Andrew Villegas in Fort Collins: NOW, published January 6, 2008

Rick Lowerre is an attorney representing Kleberg County, Texas, in a lawsuit against uranium miner Uranium Resources Inc. The mine, like all others in Texas, Lowerre said, can't clean the water it pumped into the ground to extract the uranium 20 years ago.

"No uranium mining company in Texas has ever restored groundwater in Texas to levels they promised...Mining companies knew all along (they couldn't clean the water). Everybody just lied to the public...Water that is pumped out of the ground contains lead and mercury in addition to uranium, which are then pumped back into the ground to be cleaned later...communities should take steps to ensure that powerful lobbying by uranium mining companies doesn't overshadow safety concerns of the public."

## The Cost of a Single Uranium Mining Cleanup

The following is the response from the State of Utah to a request for information about cleanup costs for the Atlas mining disaster:

...the Department of Environmental Quality referred your request for information about the former Atlas millsite to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Thank you for your interest in the Moab

Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project. DOE assumed ownership of the former Atlas millsite in October 2001. Since then, DOE has spent approximately 60 million dollars through fiscal year (FY) 2007. These costs have been paid for by the federal government; the State of Utah does not participate in cleanup costs associated with the Moab UMTRA Project. Anticipated FY 2008 funding is approximately \$23 million.

Additional information about the Moab UMTRA Project can be found on our website at [www.gjem.energy.gov/moab](http://www.gjem.energy.gov/moab). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission may have additional information about the site when it was owned by Atlas Minerals Corporation.

## Uranium Worldwide

Excerpts from an article by David Thorpe in The Guardian (UK), January 11, 2008

...One of the world's top producers of uranium is **Niger**. Last year, it mined 3,500 tonnes and issued nearly 100 exploration licenses. This year it plans to double production, opening two new mines.

**China** is hovering around...but its presence has made it a target for rebels who briefly kidnapped a Chinese mining executive in July.

In **Malawi**, finance minister Goodall Gondwe said on January 9 that huge amounts are expected to flow into his coffers over the next decade from uranium mining...But civil society groups in Malawi have asked (Australian) Paladin to halt mining operations...unless and until the company is willing to enter negotiations to change its proposal in a way that addresses the flaws, gaps and problems in the project that pose serious public health and environmental risks.

In **India**, The Ministry of Environment and Forests has allowed Uranium Corporation of India to mine uranium in Meghalaya. But the local Grassroots Democracy Advisory Council appealed to the government not to allow it "at any cost" for the sake of future generations...

In the **Czech Republic**, on December 30 2007, several hundred people held a demonstration at Osecná against the securing of the Osecná-Kotel uranium deposit for future mining. The state-owned company Diamo is attempting to secure the deposit for future opencast mining. The surrounding communities are opposed to this, instead being in the process of making the area into a recreational resource. They are still dealing with the legacy of the large-scale uranium mining carried out during the cold war era.

And in **Namibia**, (French) Areva has no scruples about taking advantage of Namibia's very special regulatory regime: people have just two weeks to respond to planning applications such as the draft environmental and social impact assessment report for Trekkopje Uranium Project.

...**Canadian** mining company UraMin will sell 35% of the mine's output to China...There are many more examples of this type of frenzied activity - in **South Africa, Zambia, Somalia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Russia, North and South Korea**...

...and excerpts from an article by John Wiseman and Jamie Walker, The Australian, January 17, 2008.

**Uranium tailings dumped in bags**... Developer Marathon Resources confirmed yesterday that investigations were under way into the disposal of "exploration materials" at Mt Gee...north of Adelaide...The discovery sparked renewed calls from conservation groups for uranium exploration

in the area to be banned...Police were present on December 27 when the owners of the nearby Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary resort...unearthed a dump of plastic bags filled with apparent tailings from the drill site.

## Meeting Videos on TV

The CARD presentation in Windsor, in which a representative for Senator Ken Salazar spoke, is airing now on Comcast Channel 22 - public access. The schedule is

Sunday, 4 PM

Monday, 7AM

Wednesday, 11AM, 3AM

Friday, 10:30 PM

Saturday, 8 PM

The January 14, 2008 Fort Collins Regional Library District presentation and discussion on the proposed uranium mining project will be rebroadcast on City Cable Channel 14 on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 29th at 8 PM

Wednesday, January 30th at Noon

Thursday, January 31st at 3 PM

Friday, February 1st at 9 AM

Saturday, February 2nd at 7 AM and 9 PM

There will be additional times during the month of February.

The forum is also available on-demand via the internet. The link is

<http://atlas.fcgov.com/uranium/index.html> . You can also check out the DVD from the Fort Collins Regional Library District. [www.fcgov.com/library](http://www.fcgov.com/library).

## Donations, Please!

We again thank our contributors for their generosity. We especially would like to thank the people who keep on donating monthly. This greatly helps us with planning and covering our ongoing expenses. Please join them and help fund operating expenses and lobbying efforts for the 2008 legislation introduced to protect our natural resources, especially water.

If you're interested in supporting us on a regular basis, \$20/month would go a long way towards our expenses.

Keep in mind that Powertech is likely to spend a lot of money on their lobbying. Remember they didn't hesitate to place a full page ad in the Coloradoan and other area newspapers when the Fort Collins City Council passed a resolution against uranium mining?

You can donate at the [www.nunnglow.com](http://www.nunnglow.com) website or send your money order or check to CARD, PO Box 143, Wellington, CO 80549. If for some reason you don't want to be publicly acknowledged for your contribution, please let us know.

## Who Are We?

CARD (Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction) is a diverse collection of citizens concerned about the health, environmental and economic impacts of uranium-related activity. We are convinced this project will have dire consequences for northern Colorado and set a dangerous precedent. Our goal is to prevent uranium mining in Colorado and protect our valuable resources, espe-

cially our water, for future generations.

The CARD website, [www.nunnglow.com](http://www.nunnglow.com), has a wealth of information about the proposed mining, the processes and the potential impact on our air and water. On our website you can learn what you can do to stop the proposed uranium mining, sign an online petition and make a donation.