

C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER



Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

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Rules & Reg Schedule

The informal process has now finished and the formal public process has begun.

On Jan 28, the state Division of Mining issued a formal notice of rulemaking, along with a draft of the proposed rules, and the Division's statement of basis and purpose explaining its draft rules. All documents are here:

<http://mining.state.co.us/RulemakingInformation.htm>

The notice of rulemaking announced that the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) has set a **March 1 deadline for written public comments** on the draft rules and will hold its **first public hearing April 15 in Loveland** (1pm to 9pm at the I-25 Embassy Suites at the Ranch), with an additional one (or more) likely in Denver. Also, there are two public participation tracks in this rulemaking: one for those wanting formal "party status" in the rulemaking (along with formal legal obligations); and one for the citizens and general public wanting to be heard, but not be a formal "party" to the rulemaking.

This is the time we need strong mobilization from interested and affected communities to generate public involvement. Overall, the rules stay true to HB 1161 and SB 228, and deserve support. Two critical substantive issues remain: 1) the industry's continued attempts to weaken ground water protection standards for in-situ leach uranium mines; and 2) the extent of the public's and local government's ability to participate in pre-mining permitting (i.e. prospecting, exploration, and in-situ baseline characterization plan approval).

A Powertech Pump and Dump OK with EPA?

CARD found an interesting report while going through some New York Times articles and the EPA sites referred to therein. It seems that Powertech's first pump test discharge waters were dumped into Spring Creek (Weld County, not Fort Collins). Surface discharge of potentially U laden waters???

Might take a look at the website below to see the actual report. I know it's a doozy to type in, but worth your time if you are so inclined with the technical details of what our government allowed:

<http://iaspub.epa.gov/...>

The permit that many of you spoke to the EPA about last December was for the same kind of test, but this time they want to put the waters "back" into a lower formation than where they originally come out of. One pump test discharge from above.... one from below.....

Legislative Update

Watch the <http://taccolorado.com> website for updates on the important Uranium Processing Accountability Act sponsored by Representative Buffie McFadyen, Senator Ken Kester and Senator Bob Bacon. Please write a note of support to these fine legislators.

Take a moment RIGHT NOW and send a note to your legislators to encourage them to support this legislation. Our experience has shown that it's the voices of the people that matter. You DO have an impact.

Contact information for local and state representatives is here:

<http://www.nunnglow.com/stop-the-mining/email-or-contact-lawmakers.html>

THIS MONTH IN THE HISTORY OF CARD -- New feature --

A little historical reminder and review of CARD activities. We'll begin this newsletter with 2 years ago -- February 2008

February 12, 2008 -- Larimer County Releases Mining Environmental Study Report

The Larimer County Environmental Advisory Board was tasked by the County Commissioners to investigate the use of in-situ and open-pit mining operations for the extraction of uranium. They released their report on February 12, 2008.

Report Conclusions:

"Mining operations carry with them the potential for significant environmental impacts. Water, soil and air contamination are all possible with the operations that may be conducted in Weld County. The probabilities associated with these impacts are not presently known. In the absence of sound scientific data, an acceptable risk assessment is not currently possible. Without a risk assessment, detailed project descriptions, or access to baseline data the EAB is unable to make recommendations regarding the Centennial Project at this time."

"The effects of the Centennial Project extend beyond environmental impacts. There are potential public health and economic impacts as well. The economic impacts of the In Situ Leaching and Open-pit Mining project may not be tied to actual risks but perceptions. In this case, regardless of the risks, the project may have a negative impact to the region. Other economic impacts may include additional jobs and tax revenue for the duration of the mining operations."

"It is often the standard that entities other than the principle operators must show that harm will result in order for permitting to be halted. This approach, however, presupposes that the action is "innocent of harm until proven guilty" and places the burden of proof on those who usually have fewer resources to make their case. Given the seriousness of the potential risks (many of which appear to have low probabilities of occurring), the board would expect that those proposing the mining operation will provide the public with all of the data which they possess that could have any relevancy to the matter at hand and then use these data to propose a reasoned and scientifically based risk assessment of the operations. Without meeting this standard, it is impossible for the Board or the public to provide their informed consent or for the outcome to represent a just resolution. The risks (environmental, economic, health, and social) and the ability of the mine operator and local governments to avoid or mitigate these risks should be weighed against the benefits that may be derived from such an operation when determining whether the mine is acceptable for the region."

Read the entire report at:

<http://www.nunnglow.com/latest/larimer-country-releases-mining-report.html>

Please continue to remember CARD when you consider where to donate your time and money to good efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

An informational public meeting on the proposed uranium mining in Northern Colorado will be held Thursday evening on February 18th at 7PM at Centennial Park Library, 2227 23rd Av, Greeley. The meeting is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Greeley-Weld County. There will be opportunities to share information, review the research done to date, ask questions and hear about possible future action by attendees.

Watch www.nunnglow.com/table/events/ for more places to get information, to volunteer, or to just come out and support CARD.

We Need Your Help

If you don't want uranium mining by Canadian company, Powertech Uranium Corp. 10 miles from Fort Collins, please stay involved and help us stop the mining.

The rulemaking process for HB 08-1161 has started. The uranium mining companies, the Colorado Mining Association, and their allies will attempt to weaken the rules.

Rulemaking includes public hearings, and we encourage you to attend. Letting state rulemakers know that thousands of Colorado residents want strong protection is one way we can insure that the will of the people is incorporated into these rules.

As you might expect, the mining companies are pressuring to weaken the regulation language to their favor. They have deep pockets and will likely hire a number of pro-uranium mining consultants to testify at the upcoming rulemaking hearings. They will argue how "benign" ISL mining is.

Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction (CARD) does not have a financial sponsor. We must rely on donations and grants to raise money to fight uranium mining.

We need funds to hire expert witnesses to testify how important it is to keep the regulations strong and hold the mining companies accountable for restoring the water back to previous conditions. We need your financial support to make this happen!

If the mining companies are successful in getting the rules of HB 08-1161 relaxed to their favor, and our water is contaminated, it could have serious economic and negative health effects to humans, livestock and agriculture - forever - or after 4.5 billion years (the half-life of uranium), whichever comes first.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **We need your financial support to hire expert witnesses.**
- **Please donate what you can. Donations can now be tax-deductible.**
- **You can donate through our website: www.nunnglow.com**
- **Or mail a check to our fiscal agent Information Network for Responsible Mining (INFORM) PO Box 349, Lyons, CO 80540. Donations to INFORM are tax deductible.**
- **Everyone in the State of Colorado has a say on whether uranium mining is permitted here. Let your voice be heard! - Continue writing letters to the editor and to your elected officials telling them you are against in situ leach uranium mining.**
- **Sign up for our electronic newsletter at www.nunnglow.com so we can notify you when and where to appear.**

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, especially our water, for future generations.

The CARD website, 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.