

C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER

Late March, 2008



Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

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

Wanted: Locals to Organize Petition Drives

C.A.R.D. supporters going house to house, collecting signatures in their own neighborhood, have been extremely effective. Many feel it is easier to ask for signatures from people they know. And a lot of people have appreciated the opportunity to sign! There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to collect tens of thousands of petitions from neighborhood drives.

Please consider working your own neighborhood. You may print petition forms from the www.nunnglow.com website. You may also contact us, and we will get the material to you. Be a uranium mining activist for a day! Your efforts will make a tremendous difference. You can send the petitions to the CARD address listed above. Petition progress can be checked directly on our website.

Upcoming Events – Join Us!

March 26, 2008: Longmont Town Meeting

CARD's next public education meeting will be held Wednesday, March 26, in Longmont from 7 PM to 9 PM. It will be held in the Front Range Meeting Room at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center. The Radisson is at 1900 Ken Pratt Blvd in Longmont (on HWY 119 just east of Hover St.). The Front Range Meeting Room is located behind the hotel at 1850 Industrial Circle.

April 8, 2008: Greeley City Council Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers of the Lincoln Park Annex Building at 919 7th Street. A resolution against uranium mining will be considered.

Legislative Update

House Bill 1161 has passed out of the Appropriations Committee with an 11-2 vote and will now go to the House floor for a vote, maybe as early as Friday, March 28. This means that there is still time for you to contact House representatives and ask them to support the bill.

House Bill 1165 is still in the Committee for Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources. Testimony is closed on the bill, but the date for the committee vote is not set. Not only is this yet another opportunity to urge the Committee members to support the bill, it is **critical** that you take the time to contact them before they vote. See a list of committee members and their contact info at the end of this newsletter.

This is why it is so important that you give your input: (1) HB 1165 would insure that property owners know when exploration for minerals is planned in their immediate area. Currently, people across northern Weld County – and the state – have no way of knowing if or when a company wants to drill for uranium or other minerals in their immediate area.

(2) HB 1165 would also give local governments more of a say when mining is proposed. It asserts the importance and merits of local control, and introduces balance into the mining permit process. Local government has the responsibility - and thus must also have the authority - to develop land use plans that can protect our water resources for our children and our children's children. (3) At the moment, support for HB 1165 does not seem to be as strong as it is for HB 1161. Your input at this time can make an enormous difference.

The Denver Post Supports Bill 1161

Excerpts from the Denver Post Editorial, March 20, 2008

...Th(e) surge in demand has sparked renewed interest in Colorado uranium, especially in a new "in-situ" process...The trick is to be sure that the new mines are monitored to ensure they meet water standards. And that's where HB 1161 comes in.

"We...have adequate protections in place for the old open-pit mines in the Mined Land Reclamation Act," (Rep.) Fischer told The Post. "Now, it's important to provide adequate protection for ground water as we deal with this relatively new in-situ technology."

(Rep.) Fischer, an engineer, and (Rep.) Kefalas have worked diligently to craft a balanced bill that won't ban uranium mining in Colorado but will help ensure that the water supplies vital to agriculture and municipal use aren't sacrificed in a new mining boom. It deserves to become law.

Uranium Mining Opponents Hold Regional Meeting

Ten organizations from five western states met in Casper, Wyoming on Saturday, March 15, 2008 to discuss concerns over uranium mining in their regions and its potential impact to surface and ground water, human health, and local property values.

C.A.R.D. brought concerns over the uranium mining proposed near Fort Collins. "Of course uranium mining always causes some form of contamination. Water at in situ leach mining sites is not returned to its original condition," said Jackie Adolph, Outreach Chair. "Most people don't know that federal policies that subsidize the nuclear industry aren't just about power plants. The nuclear industry's largest negative impacts have always been in uranium mining and milling processes."

South Dakota faces mining proposals along the southern Black Hills and three groups, Defenders of the Black Hills, South Dakota Sierra Club and ACTion for the Environment, attended from that state.

The Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance attended from Wyoming with concerns over recent applications for uranium exploratory and mining permits in the state.

Western Nebraska Resources Council, Nebraskans for Peace, and Nebraska Sierra Club traveled from northwest Nebraska, where Crow Butte Resources is seeking to expand their uranium mining operations.

Members of Dakota Resource Council from northwestern North Dakota had concerns over plans to mine uranium in that state.

The ten groups have issued the following joint statement:

"We want the uranium industry to know that we stand together on this issue. Whether in a rural setting or a populated area, uranium mining causes radioactive contamination. Past

uranium sites continue to contaminate the air, land, and water. Any bonds designed to pay for clean-up of former mining areas have not been sufficient, and taxpayers have been forced to pay the bill. We call on the public and all elected officials to do everything possible to protect the water, land, and local economies from proposed uranium activities.”

Uranium Mill Proposed Near Naturita

...Energy Fuels, Inc. is in the early stages of permitting its Piñon Ridge Mill to process up to 1,000 tons of uranium ore, as well as vanadium, per day. It would be the first uranium processing facility to be constructed in the United States in 25 years.

The move to build a new facility comes after a recent shutdown of a uranium mill in Cañon City, owned by the Cotter Corporation. That mill closed after a string of violations, complaints and fines.

...Energy Fuels is hosting two informational sessions for the public in Naturita (3-25-08) and in Montrose (3-26-08).

Radioactive Rush

Will Sands of the Durango Telegraph writes on March 10, 2008 (excerpted) that ...the prospectors, Geiger counters and mining claims have now returned to Southwest Colorado. The Bureau of Land Management reported 10,730 new filings for uranium mining claims on the Western Slope in 2007. In 2006, 5,205 claims were filed for the uranium rich region. These numbers are up dramatically from the 274 claims filed in 2004.

... courtesy of high prices for the radioactive ore along with a Department of Energy decision last summer that opens 27,000 acres on the Western Slope to uranium mining. In addition, an energy company is forging ahead with plans to build a new uranium processing facility in the Four Corners region.

Colorado mining claims have jumped over 230 percent in the last four years (Source: Environment Colorado.)

Atomic Minerals Ltd. Identifies CO Uranium Mining Projects

Information posted by the company on atomicminerals.com

Four Colorado uranium mining projects are currently being pursued by Atomic Minerals Ltd. The *Dolores Anticline* project is located in the Paradox basin spanning the Dolores and San Miguel Counties. It consists of 1,177 claims over 24,280 acres, about 30 miles from the Denison Mine Corporation's White Mesa Mill. The *Troublesome Creek* project is located in Grand County and involves 123 claims on 2,400 acres. ISL mining is considered. The *Little Wolford* project, also in Grand County, consists of 127 claims on 2,540 acres. The company has filed for a 640 acre state lease. ISL is considered. The *Beaver Creek* project in Grand County involves 27 claims on 540 acres, adjacent to the Newmont Exploration project.

Uranium Processor Guilty of Poisoning Birds

Thanks to the Denver Post, March 14, 2008

Denver-based Cotter Corp. has pleaded guilty and was sentenced in federal court for poisoning migratory birds at its uranium processing facility near Cañon City. U.S. District Court Magistrate Kathleen Tafoya on Wednesday ordered Cotter to pay a \$15,000 fine and an additional \$15,000 restitution and placed the company on 12 months' probation.

Villagers Protest Uranium Mining at Iditarod Start

Excerpts from an article on KTTU.com (Alaska) posted March 1, 2008

The ceremonial start of the 2008 Iditarod dog sled race provided an opportunity for some Alaskans to voice their opposition to uranium exploration. Triex Minerals Corporation and Full Metal Minerals, Ltd. conducted core drilling for uranium about thirty miles from the village of Elim last year, near one of the race check points. The companies are gearing up for continued drilling this summer.

National Treasures Threatened by Uranium Mining

The Grand Canyon is not the only western national monument to be crowded by mining claims. U.S. Mining Database identifies other areas:

Arches National Park, Utah has 869 claims within 5 miles. 208 of those are made by claimants with uranium interests (Kee Nez Resources, Robert C Young and Robert P Kirgan.)

Canyonlands National Park, Utah has 233 claims within 5 miles. 218 of those claims are staked by Kee Nez Resources, which has uranium interests.

Capitol Reef National Park, Utah has 161 claims within 5 miles, of which 14 are made by companies/individuals with uranium interests (Garfield Resources and Allene O Haws.)

Yellowstone National Park, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming has 21 claims within 5 miles, of which 66 are made by companies/individuals with uranium interests (David W Depuy, Shirley M Depuy, Donald Floberg, Dorothy R Payne and Robert Payne.)

As for the **Grand Canyon**, 618 of 815 claims within 5 miles have claimants with uranium interests (Patrick Hillard, Dir Exploration Inc., Energy Metals Corporation, High Plains Uranium, Inc., Joseph I Cain and IUC Explorations.) A number of other national parks have scores of mining claims within the same periphery, but none of those are currently uranium-related.

Goliad, TX to Sue Uranium Company over Water Contamination

Excerpts from an article by Tara Bozick in the Victoria Advocate, published March 1, 2008.

...a notice of intent to sue Uranium Energy Corp...went to the company as well as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency...The county plans to sue under the Safe Drinking Water Act in federal court in Victoria.

The notice states that wells in the Evangeline Aquifer were contaminated after the uranium company began drilling test holes and extracting samples. It continues to state that boreholes weren't plugged and allowed storm water flowing over land to enter the aquifer.

The lawsuit is part of a larger intent to protect the aquifer...Goliad County Commissioners Court authorized the suit during its February meeting.

Virginia House Panel Rejects Uranium Study

Excerpts from an article by Anita Kumar in the Washington Post, published March 4, 2008.

...Lawmakers concerned about land, air and drinking water contamination killed a proposal...that would have allowed a study of whether uranium can be safely mined on 200 acres in south-central Virginia, eliminating any chance that the controversial bill could pass this year.

After more than an hour of debate, the House Rules Committee defeated a bill that opponents argued would be the first step toward lifting a 25-year-old state ban on uranium mining.

The decision was a blow to Virginia Uranium, a company that had aggressively lobbied the General Assembly to take the first step toward mining what is thought to be the largest deposit of uranium in the United States.

Meeting Videos on TV

The January 14, 2008, Fort Collins Regional Library District presentation and discussion on the proposed uranium mining project is available on-demand via the internet. The link is <http://www.fcgov.com/cable14> . You can also check out the DVD from the Fort Collins Regional Library District, www.fcgov.com/library.

We Need Your Donation!

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 our water.

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

You can donate at the 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.

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Committee

Here is the contact information of the Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resource Committee members who are reviewing house bills 1161 and 1165. As stated above, please contact them and let them know you endorse these important bills.

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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.

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