

C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER

September 14, 2009



Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

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Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction, CARD will have booth at the Fort Collins Sustainability Fair September 19 – 20

Drop by our booth at the 10th Annual Fort Collins Sustainability Fair Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20. Fair location/entrance is on Lemay, north of Vine Drive. Map at <http://www.sustainablelivingassociation.org/thefair/maps.php>

There will be available at the booth, envelopes for tax deductible donations, needed to hire expert witnesses in the rule making process, to enforce the purpose of H. B. 1161. H.B. 1161 was the law signed by Governor Ritter in May, 2008, requiring uranium mining companies to prove that they could restore the ground water to pre-mining condition after in situ leach uranium mining.

Volunteers are needed to help share staffing duties on Saturday and Sunday. All volunteers who staff the booth will be admitted free to the event, a savings of \$8.00. There are no special qualifications required of staffers, just a willingness to share our mission with the general public. Members of the Coordinating Committee of CARD will be

staffing the booth at all times, to orient and assist all volunteers. If you are willing to help in this important effort, please contact Nora Dixon at nora1704@comcast.net and sign up for a two to four hour slot between 9:00am and 6:00pm on Saturday or Sunday

Town Board of Nunn Passes Resolution Against Uranium Mining.

On Thursday, September 3, 2009, the Town Board of Nunn, Colorado passed a resolution opposing Powertech Uranium Corp.'s proposed Centennial Uranium Project.

The Town of Nunn has no permitting authority with respect to the Centennial Project. However, it is the closest municipality to the proposed mine -- a portion of the proposed mining area is located within the town's 3-mile growth management area. The opposition to the project by the Town of Nunn and other municipalities will be an important consideration when the various permitting agencies weigh the environmental and socioeconomic impacts from the proposed project.

Source: www.powertechexposed.com/index.htm

League of Women Voters of Larimer County Oppose Uranium Mining

<http://www.nunnglow.com/latest/league-of-women-voters-of-larimer-county-oppose-uranium-mine-near-nunn.html>

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of the United States has a long history of fighting the pollution of natural resources in the interest of protecting the environment and public health. The LWV of Colorado has positions on both hazardous and radioactive materials and the wise and balanced use of water resources in Colorado. The League's position is that activities involving hazardous and radioactive materials should not take place in areas that supply drinking water, such as sole source aquifers, or in areas with significant renewable resource value, such as prime agricultural lands, aquifers, and significant grazing and forest lands.

These considerations cited above have led the LWV of Larimer County to take a position against the "Centennial Project" planned by Powertech (USA) Inc. Powertech is proposing to do in situ leach uranium mining, approximately 11 miles northeast of Fort Collins in the Fox Hills Aquifer.

The League of Women Voters of Larimer County has concluded that in situ leach mining should not be done in this area because of the health and environmental risks it poses to the Northern Colorado Front Range.

The League agrees with more than 11,000 local residents who signed petitions opposing the Centennial Project as well as the 80 municipalities, public entities and businesses who have signed resolutions opposing it.

Note: (To date, towns and organizations opposing uranium mining are: Fort Collins, Greeley, Wellington, Timnath, Nunn, Ault, New Raymer, Larimer County Medical Society, Colorado Medical Society, Colorado Democratic Party and League of Women Voters.)

USGS Report on ISL Uranium Mining States No ISL Mine Has Ever Restored Groundwater

Excerpt from USGS Report entitled, "*In-situ recovery uranium mining in the United States: Overview of production and remediation issues*" by J.K. Otton, S. Hall - U.S. Geological Survey, Lakewood, Colorado, United States of America.

Source: http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/PDFplus/2009/cn175/URAM2009/Session%204/08_56_Otton_USA.pdf

In 2007, in-situ recovery (ISR) methods produced about 95% of U.S. production of 4.53 million pounds. Eleven new and five expansion ISR applications or letters of intent were filed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the period from 2007-2009. ISR mining can be conducted in water-saturated, permeable, hydrologically confined sandstone beds where the uranium is soluble. Contamination of ground water during and after ISR operations has become a major issue for nearby residents, and for local, county and state governments. Colorado has raised ISR mining requirements and established a burden of proof that operations can return water quality to baseline conditions. Similar concerns are affecting mining plans in Wyoming, Texas, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Major issues affecting restoration at ISR mining operations include the following:

- Baseline water quality: Is the water presently potable or suitable for livestock or irrigation? What parts of the local aquifer should be sampled to establish baseline? What sampling methods are required to establish water quality conditions?
- Control of fluid flow during operations: How much hydrologic understanding of the ore zone is necessary to avoid flow problems?
- Ground-water restoration: To what standard should the ground water be restored? How long should monitoring occur after mining is completed?
- Ground-water restoration: What technologies work or might work?

To date, no remediation of an ISR operation in the United States has successfully returned the aquifer to baseline conditions. Often at the end of monitoring, contaminants continue to increase by reoxidation and resolubilization of species reduced during remediation; slow contaminant movement from low to high permeability zones; and slow desorption of contaminants adsorbed to various mineral phases. New remediation technologies are being examined, including bioremediation and monitored natural attenuation.

Myth Versus Fact About In-situ uranium Mining – An Evening with Gavin Mudd

Gavin Mudd, Ph.D is an internationally known and respected expert on the environmental impacts and management of mining, particularly In Situ Leach (ISL) uranium mining. He traveled from his native Australia to share his expertise on this controversial subject to a packed house at the Fort Collins Senior Center on August 18, 2009. He stated that sustainable mining should, first, do no harm. ISL uranium mining has not proved it can restore the groundwater back to previous conditions mainly because of the oxidant used to activate the mining chemicals to solubilize the uranium.

To see an article about his talk published in the Fort Collins Coloradoan, click [here](#).

To view a video of his talk, go to www.nunnglow.com or click [here](#).

Gavin Mudd's video can also be seen on Comcast Cable Channel 97 via Fort Collins Public Access Network, FCPAN. The schedule through September 19, 2009 is: Tuesdays @ 1pm, Thursdays @ 7pm and Saturdays @ 7pm. A new schedule will be arranged after September 19th. Check the schedule at <http://www.fcpan.org/schedule.htm>

Former ISL Uranium Wellfield Operator Blows the Whistle

Roland Burrows worked for Uranium Resources, Inc. as a wellfield operator at the Kingsville Dome in-situ uranium mine in Ricardo, Texas, in 1996. He says the company at the time was regularly flushing high volumes of water into the mine field that would have expanded groundwater pollution beyond its permitted area, posing a potential future risk to the residents of Kingsville.

He states he repeatedly tried to correct operating practices that appeared to be geared toward increasing uranium production at the expense of containing toxic pollution within the portion of the aquifer being mined. He claims also to have witnessed the falsification of monitoring-well data, which must be regularly submitted to the state to show the contaminated water is contained at the mine site. He was fired for his repeated efforts to change the way the mine was operating.

Soon after, he found out the company's engineering manager had started working with an outfit called the Uranium Energy Corp. and was trying to open a mine in neighboring Goliad County.

Burrows is now preparing to fight the company's permit application, which is already on the way to a hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings early in 2010.

In Kingsville, Texas, URI's operation is now running on a skeleton crew, thanks to the economic downturn. Of it, Burrows says: "I know there's 10 million gallons that won't ever get cleaned up that's headed for the Kingsville water supply." And Goliad? "Mining cannot be done there safely in my opinion," he says.

To see Roland Burrows talk about his experience – go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7BcnzLOFCQ&feature=channel>

We need your help now more than ever

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.

On May 20, 2008, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter signed House Bill 08-1161, the most comprehensive state legislation in the U.S. on in situ leach uranium mining and ground water protection. State legislators Steve Johnson, John Kefalas, and Randy Fischer -- all from Fort Collins -- sponsored the bill.

Some people thought that we had “won” the battle against uranium mining when the law passed. - NOT TRUE.

Laws by themselves cannot stop anything. Laws must be *enforced*, and that starts with writing rules that say exactly what a law means.

The rulemaking process has already started. The uranium mining companies, the Colorado Mining Association, and their allies will attempt to weaken the rules.

Rulemaking includes public hearings, and we all need to be ready. Letting state rule-makers know that thousands of Colorado residents want strong protection (and over 11,000 have already signed petitions) 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.

The truth is - in situ leach mining has never restored the water back to previous condition. The mining industry argues this is possible, but when ISL mines have been declared "restored" it is only by lowering the restoration standards. Those are the facts. We can find no records of any ISL mine in the US that has "restored" groundwater without relaxed standards. This means the water wasn't actually restored, it remained contaminated because total restoration is virtually impossible.

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 approximately \$10,000 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 these 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.
- When the mining companies apply for a mining permit later this year you can appear and state your objections to uranium mining at the public hearings. 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.