

McDermott, Steve

Subject: FW: MLRB Comments from Citizen - Accountability, Water Safety Essential-Miller

From:

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 1:43 AM

To: Stanton, Irene

Subject: MLRB Comments from Citizen - Accountability, Water Safety Essential

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February 22, 2010

Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board

Attn: Irene Stanton

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On the Draft Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) Rules:

I write regarding Colorado House Bill 08-1161, which was passed in 2008 to establish the groundwater restoration standards uranium mining companies must meet before in situ leach mining. The MLRB Rules should enforce these rules strictly to prevent the contamination of groundwater. The industry should not be allowed to endanger public health by acting outside the regulation of this law. The industry must be held accountable on every front for the actions it engages in. Standards for ground water protection should be fastidiously upheld. Groundwater safety standards should be increased rather than decreased. Restoration standards should be clear and established up front, and not allowed to be changed as mining progresses. Industry must never be allowed to endanger public health for the sake of profit or due to carelessness. Regarding Colorado Senate Bill 08-228, which allows the public to be made aware of when the mining company is prospecting to do mining. MLRB Rules should make it mandatory for the mining company to accept public and local government comments on prospecting activities. The mining company should not be allowed to have any secret operation. The future effects of this industry on human health and the environment we all depend on for survival necessitate that operations of the mining industry be absolutely transparent. The MLRB Rules should also give the public and local governments the administrative power to review prospecting approvals and in-situ baseline characterization plan approvals. The MLRB Rules should give the public and the local governments each complete veto power. If either the public or the local government rejects a specific mining proposal, the plan should not be allowed to be carried forward. This is a matter of public safety. The public should be involved in all actions affecting public safety.

Thank you for your time,

Elyse Miller