

# C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER

January 13, 2010



## Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

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

## Happy 2010!!

### Contents:

- Thank you Senator Michael Bennett and Congresswoman Betsy Markey
- Greeley League of Women Voters Oppose Uranium Mining
- Update on December 21, 2009 public hearing with EPA regarding Powertech Uranium Corps. Class V Injection permit application
- Legislation to watch
- We need your help

### Thank you Senator Michael Bennett and Congresswoman Betsy Markey

This past week CARD was able to thank both Senator Bennett and Congresswoman Markey in person for their letter of November 22, 2009 to the EPA regarding the guidelines used for ISL mining.

CARD met with Congresswoman Betsy Markey on Monday, January 4th in her Fort Collins office. We thanked her for her letter to the EPA and she was quick to inform us that it was Senator Bennett who had spearheaded the letter. We are still thankful that she sees the importance and signed on.

CARD asked Congresswoman Markey to consider signing on as a co-sponsor a bill to reform the 1872 Mining Law. HR 699 is being introduced by Representatives Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Jay Inslee (D-WA). The bill includes fiscal reform, environmental protection provisions, recognition of other land resource values besides mining, and a program to clean up abandoned mines. Congresswoman Markey agreed to consider it. Please contact Congresswoman Markey and ask her to co-sponsor this bill.

<http://www.nunnglow.com/latest/action-alert-1872-mining-act-may-finally-see-reform.html>

Congresswoman Markey agreed to continue to keep a close eye on the proposed ISL mining for Northern Colorado. We thanked her for this effort.

On Tuesday, January 5th, CARD attended a public meeting at Avogadros in Fort Collins with Senator Michael Bennett. Nora Dixon from CARD stood up and publicly thanked Senator Bennett for his letter to the EPA.

We were excited to hear Senator Bennett is committed to the finite resource of water in Colorado and is concerned about leaving a good legacy for future generations.

## Greeley League of Women Voters Oppose Uranium Mining

CARD is thrilled to announce that the Weld County League of Women Voters Board unanimously passed a formal resolution OPPOSING uranium mining in Northern Colorado on Saturday, January 9, 2010. Watch our website: [www.nunnglow.com](http://www.nunnglow.com) for the official wording to be posted.

## Update on December 21, 2009 public hearing with EPA regarding Powertech Uranium Corps. Class V Injection permit application

Thank you to everyone who attended this public hearing. We will keep you posted when we know anything at all. At this point in time we don't know when the EPA will be giving us any additional information. Their website with the permit application is:

<ftp://ftp.epa.gov/r8/powertech/>

To read about the hearing.....

"More than 100 people gathered Monday night in Nunn to plead with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency to put a stop to a permitting process that marks the initial stages of a proposed uranium mine near the town.

Several people spoke at the event, which was the second — and final — meeting to gather public comment concerning a class V permit for Canadian-based Powertech Uranium Corp. The permit up for discussion Monday night would allow the mining company to conduct tests to determine the geologic and hydrologic makeup of the site, according to Rich Mylott, spokesman for the EPA." read more from the Greeley Tribune.....

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20091222/NEWS/912229988&parentprofile=search>

## Legislation to watch

### 'Pre-emptive strike' against uranium by Bobbie Magill, January 10, 2010

Inspired by a proposed new uranium mill in western Montrose County - the first of its kind in a quarter-century - another bill targets uranium mill operators who pollute the groundwater.

If passed, the bill could have a direct impact on Powertech USA's Centennial Project should the company decide to construct a uranium mill near its proposed in situ leach uranium mine between Wellington and Nunn, said the bill's Senate sponsor, Sen. Bob Bacon, D-Fort Collins.

The bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Buffie McFadyen, D-Denver, would prevent a Cotter Corp. uranium mill in Fremont County from further polluting the groundwater. Mill operators would be required to prove they won't contaminate groundwater before they can begin or continue uranium milling.

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20100110/NEWS01/1100304/Politicos-choose-priorities-as-new-legislative-session-begins-Wednesday>

## 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.

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 12,800 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](http://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](http://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](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.