

# C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER

Early March, 2008



## Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

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

### A BIG Thank You!

We want to thank Lloyd Drust and his fantastic lineup of fellow musicians who put on the C.A.R.D. fundraiser at Avogadro's Number on March 2. They came from near and far to make their own, very special contribution to the fight against uranium -- and demonstrate their talents and joy of making music. It was a glittering, all day concert that raised much-needed funds. Thanks to all who attended, contributed, and bought silent auction items, as well!

### Upcoming Events – Join Us!

#### March 15, 2008: St. Patrick's Day Parade

Come join C.A.R.D. in celebrating the luck of the Irish and demonstrating our stand against uranium mining! Line-up starts at 8:30AM on Walnut Ave (north side of Old Town Square.) The parade starts at 10AM. Wear your green and join the fun.

#### March 24, 2008: Timnath Public Forum

C.A.R.D. will do a presentation at a Timnath public forum on March 24 from 7 to 9 at Timnath Elementary, 3909 Main Street. Rebecca Davidson will be the moderator.

#### 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.

### Legislative Update

House Bill 1161 will be heard in the Appropriations Committee this Friday. There is no hearing set for bill 1165 at this point in time. Please watch for new information.

### Local Experts Turn Out For County Uranium Meeting

*Excerpts from an article in the Coloradoan by Kevin Duggan, February 26, 2008.*

At [the February 25] meeting sponsored by the Larimer County commissioners, hydrologists spoke about water, a meteorologist talked about wind patterns and the prevalence of dust devils in the area, and a doctor spoke about the health effects of uranium mining on people who live near pit mining operations, such as members of the Navajo nation.

All were critical of Powertech's proposal. James Warner, a hydrologist and professor in the civil engineering department at Colorado State University, said Powertech's expectation of restoring groundwater around the mining area to its present condition within three years is "nearly impossible."

...The Larimer County commissioners will not be directly involved in the permitting processes for Powertech's proposal. But they can send comments to those entities that do have a say as they weigh the matter. Commissioner Randy Eubanks clearly is opposed to proposal; commissioners Kathay Rennels and Glenn Gibson, while less outspoken, also appeared concerned about what they heard.

## **Marilyn Musgrave Sends Letter to Larimer Commissioners**

*Excerpt from an article in the Greeley Tribune by Andrew Villegas published February 28, 2008.*

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Fort Morgan, has sent a letter to the Board of Larimer County Commissioners urging them to oppose a proposed uranium mine near Nunn. The letter follows a similar one Musgrave sent the Board of Weld County Commissioners in January asking them to oppose the mine over health and safety concerns.

## **Larimer County Report Details Risks**

*Excerpts from an article in the Coloradoan by Kevin Duggan, February 18, 2008.*

A report on uranium mining from a Larimer County-appointed advisory board does not take a stand on how officials should react to a mining operation proposed for Weld County.

The report from the Environmental Advisory Board details the risk from uranium mining in general - including the potential for contamination to the water, land and air. But it does not recommend a stance for the county commissioners on the controversial Centennial project proposed by Powertech Uranium Corp.

That was not the advisory board's charge, said member David Gilkey, an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences at Colorado State University...But the report offers detailed background on uranium mining and its environmental risks.

The report notes the quality of groundwater around the mining site could be adversely affected by the in-situ process, but local municipal water supplies are not likely to be impacted because they draw from watersheds to the west. It also notes that risks from mining go beyond environmental concerns. Public health and economic factors also must be weighed, according to the report.

## **Fort Collins Coloradoan Supports HB-1161**

*From an editorial published on February 22, 2008*

"...House Bill 1161, carried by a bipartisan delegation from Fort Collins that includes Reps. Randy Fischer and John Kefalas, both Democrats, and Sen. Bob Bacon, a Democrat, and Republican Sen. Steve Johnson, passed the House Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee on an 11-2 vote. The next step is the House Appropriations Committee. If passed, the bill will go to the full House for a second vote.

"...The legislation does not prevent uranium mining, but it does add some sensible controls. For example, uranium mining companies would have to prove their methods would either return groundwater to pre-mining condition or to levels outlined by existing state regulations. A third-party

contractor would be required to test the water to ensure adherence to the law. Powertech has previously indicated that its processes would return the affected water to its previous condition. "...The bill also lifts an existing confidentiality clause to require companies to disclose mine projects that are in an exploratory phase. This is an important change to allow the public more information about mining activity before full operation is achieved. "...HB 1161 balances the needs of the public by increasing information and requiring long-term accountability for water quality. It deserves to be passed."

## Greeley City Council Debates Uranium Mine

*Excerpt from a Greeley Tribune article by Andrew Villegas, February 13, 2008.*

"[C]ity officials say water from the mine could eventually find its way into Greeley's No. 3 Ditch if the mining isn't done correctly. And that water, depending on whom you ask, could be subject to potential contamination if the proposed mine is approved.

"Three council members -- Carrol Martin, Ed Phillipsen and Chuck Archibeque -- asked for a resolution against the mine while three council members -- Mayor Ed Clark, Maria Secrest and Don Feldhaus -- are at least for now against any such resolution. Jon Monson, Greeley's director of water and sewer, told the Greeley City Council at a work session...that Greeley's drinking water supply originates upstream from the mine, is piped to the city and is in no danger of contamination.

"Greeley bought farms south of the proposed mine site near Pierce and Ault to augment water rights for the city, so Monson said declining property values will be a concern for the city...

"As part of the permitting process, Powertech would have to convince the EPA that the water it will mine in will never be used for drinking water. Councilman Ed Phillipsen said that no one can make that assurance. 'Let them do it in Canada,' Phillipsen said. 'What happens if down the line we do need to drink groundwater?'"

## Uranium Mining Proposed in South Park

*Thanks to the Fairplay Flume and Richard Hamilton, Fairplay, CO.*

Golden-based Horizon Nevada Uranium Inc. wants to mine uranium in South Park. Like Powertech Uranium, which notified landowners by letter when it began its operations, the company sent about 400 notices to property owners notifying them of the proposed project.

The company wants to drill 20 to 25 exploratory holes. Opposition has arisen there, too. Local citizens want to continue to protect their aquifer from in situ mining.

A letter has been sent to Harris Sherman, Director of the state Department of Natural Resources, per local resident Richard Hamilton. The letter requests that Governor Ritter "file a Title VI, Section 601 petition (see TITLE VI -- DESIGNATION OF LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR NONCOAL MINING)" and points out that "The South Park aquifer had been designated...in the late 1970s, as a 'sole source aquifer' under the Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Protection Program as authorized by Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974... Proposals in the early 1980's regarding... in situ recovery in South Park were addressed at that time, and, after extensive evaluation and investigation, no uranium 'solution mining' was permitted in South Park due to a potential for seemingly extreme public health consequences...."

In 1983, then Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus withdrew the South Park area from uranium mining "due to extraordinary potentials for dangerous water resource contamination from ura-

nium.” The South Park region is the headwaters of the South Platte River, which provides drinking water resources for a population of approximately 2.5 million people on the Front Range.

## Cañon City Uranium Mill May Reopen

*Thanks to the [Pueblo Chieftain](#) and the [Cañon City Daily Record](#)*

Colorado’s only uranium mill is located just outside Cañon City, CO, and has been polluting the water and soils in the nearby Lincoln Park neighborhood for many years. The Lincoln Park area was placed on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1984.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wanted to allow 470,000 tons of radioactive material to be shipped from the Maywood Superfund Site in New Jersey to the Cañon City facility for disposal. The group Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste formed to oppose the proposal to allow the mill to become a dump site for out-of-state radioactive materials. The state Health Department denied Cotter's request to dispose of the Maywood soils in December 2004. That decision was upheld by the U.S. District Court in December.

Cotter Corp., which runs the mill site, recently said it has decided against continuing to try to dispose of out-of-state radioactive material there. Instead, it is deciding whether it is feasible to refurbish and reopen the mill. Reopening the mill would create additional radioactive wastes at the site and is sure to be opposed. Another uranium mill is proposed near Naturita on the Western Slope.

Open railroad cars were used to bring wastes that resulted from the creation of the original atomic bombs to the site in 1968. Cotter Corp. had more than 140 violations of its radioactive materials license between 1958, when the mill opened, and 2002. Area residents and former mill workers sued the company for compensation for the contamination of their property in 1989, which led to a settlement. The mills’ chief chemist won a workers’ compensation lawsuit in 1997 as a result of his health problems, which led to his death in 2001 from lymphoma caused by radiation exposure.

## Pine Ridge and Lakota Declared "Nuclear Free Area"

*Posted on [www.DefendBlackHills.org](http://www.DefendBlackHills.org):*

On August 7, 2007, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council passed Ordinance 07-40 which declares Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the aboriginal territorial boundaries of the Oglala Sioux Tribe to be a "Nuclear Free Area" and provides that any person, agency or entity who shall cause any nuclear pollution or contamination to enter the confines of the Reservation, including its 1851 & 1868 Treaty boundaries and aboriginal territory boundaries, "shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Most of northeastern Colorado is within the 1851 Treaty boundaries of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations.

## Powertech Appoints Wallace M. Mays Chief Operating Officer

In February, Powertech Uranium Corp. announced the appointment of Wallace M. Mays as Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Mays continues as Powertech's Chairman of the Board of Directors. The following is excerpted from the Powertech website:

”For the last three years, Mr. Mays has held the position of Operations Manager for Central Asia with Uranium One Inc. Effective February 1, 2008 Mr. Mays and Uranium One have mutually agreed to the termination of Mr. Mays' employment contract and responsibilities...Mr. Mays is now

in a position to fully concentrate on Powertech's operations and preparations for production at the Company's Dewey-Burdock and Centennial Projects.”

News reports indicate that there has been a corporate shake-up at Uranium One because of its failure to meet its projected amount of uranium production. The Dewey-Burdock project is along the South Dakota-Wyoming border.

## Meeting Videos on TV

The January 14, 2008, Fort Collins Regional Library District presentation and discussion on the proposed uranium mining project will be rebroadcast on City Cable Channel 14 on the following dates:

Thursday, March 6: 9:30 PM

Friday, March 7: 7:00 AM

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 PM

There will be additional times during the month of March.

The forum is also 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](http://www.fcgov.com/library).

## Shameless Plug for Ongoing Donations

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 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](http://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.

## 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.