

C.A.R.D. NEWSLETTER

May 19, 2008



Coloradoans Against Resource Destruction

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

LEGISLATION TO BE SIGNED BY GOVERNOR!

Thanks to everyone's extraordinary efforts, the uranium protection standards bill – House Bill 1161 – passed during the 2008 legislative session. Governor Ritter plans to sign the bill on **Tuesday, May 20, at 10:30 am at the Capitol**. You are invited to attend and be recognized for your hard work!

If you are interested in carpooling, please meet at the Park-N-Ride facility at I-25 and Harmony Road – ready to go – at 9:00 am. The Park-N-Ride is at the northwest corner of that intersection. Look for the happy people with the “NO URANIUM MINING” signs and bumper stickers!

Please remember to **thank the legislators who sponsored this legislation and worked very hard** to get it and Senate Bill 228 passed. They have truly represented their constituents in the best tradition of democratic government. They are Representatives Randy Fischer and John Kefalas of Fort Collins and Senators Steve Johnson and Bob Bacon. Thank them in person or via e-mail. You can get their web addresses through the State Legislature's website: <http://www.leg.state.co.us>

Colorado Residents Must Keep Fighting To Stop Uranium

Now that we've succeeded in passing legislation to protect our water and make mining exploration public, our work is done. Right? Wrong!

While the legislation gives us important tools that will help keep the public informed and help protect our water, laws do not enforce themselves. Now state agencies will write the

detailed rules that will be used to enforce the laws. Then when a company applies for a uranium mining permit, the state agency will look at the rules to decide exactly when – and whether – that can be done.

We can be sure that the mining industry will continue to fight tooth and nail to avoid spending the money necessary to truly protect the public from uranium activities. We need to make it clear that, while they've had their way in the past, it's a new era – an era in which people will insist on safe water, good health, and a strong clean economy.

Your Donations of Time and Money Needed

CARD has taken the leadership in northern Colorado on uranium issues. CARD's efforts have led to important actions opposing mining, such as the recently passed legislation and resolutions by the Fort Collins City Council, the City of Greeley, and the Colorado Medical Society. With your help and support, a lot has been accomplished in the last year!

Now we're gearing up for the rule-making process that the State of Colorado will go through to implement our new legislation. The legislation is great! But without strong rules, it won't be effective in protecting our water, people, and land. For example, the rules will get down to the nitty gritty and define exactly what a "violation" is and exactly when water is clean enough.

We'll need lots of brochures, more public education, and the most expensive part – experts on various aspects of mining and water quality.

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.

Sign On For Petition Drive -- Starting NOW in Greeley

The CARD Events Committee is planning petition drives on Saturdays in May and June in Greeley. **A few hours of your time can bring big rewards** for our efforts to stop uranium mining! Plus it's a good way to meet people and share your concerns.

We set up ironing boards, which are just the right height and get people's attention, and we talk to people as they come out of the store. You don't have to be a Greeley resident to help.

The first event is set up for Saturday, May 24, at the Safeway at 3526 West 10th Street. The second is set up for May 31 (also a Saturday) at the King Soopers at 2100 West 35th Street.

If you can help, please e-mail nora1740@comcast.net as soon as possible. You're welcome to bring a friend, or we'll assign you to a team with another person.

Newsletter Editor Needed

Do you have some basic writing skills or want to be "in the know" about uranium activities? Then we have the job for you!

CARD is looking for a newsletter editor. This involves keeping track of the information that will be sent to you, and then drafting a newsletter every two weeks.

To find out more, contact Jackie at jackie@nunnglow.com.

State of Wyoming Blasts In Situ Mining Operation

The State of Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality issued a Notice of Violation to Power Resources, Inc. (PRI) for violations of state laws at its Highland and Smith Ranch operations near Douglas, WY. PRI's operations are in situ leach (ISL) uranium mines, and the company is "currently the only significant producer of uranium in Wyoming."

The report on the investigation into PRI's operation says "There are a number of major long-standing environmental concerns at this operation that demand immediate attention." The violations include permit issues, reclamation, "an inordinate number of spills, leaks and other releases," and inadequate bonding.

The Notice of Violation says that the Smith Ranch and Highland mines' permits are "out of date and incomplete in several important areas." Problems include:

- "The approved mining and reclamation schedules are not being followed and are not current."
- One of the current permits says that wastes will be disposed at a facility that closed in 1994.
- One of the current permits says, "well casing joints are fastened with screws," a practice that "was discontinued years ago."
- "Topsoil protection procedures are not adequately defined to insure that disturbance is minimized and that the soil resource is protected."

The Report of Investigation notes "PRI's typical wellfield installation procedures result in the near total disturbance of the native vegetation and soils. This is not consistent with the regulation that allows for 'minor disturbance' without topsoil stripping." A Google satellite photo of the Smith Ranch facility shows dozens of places where topsoil has been stripped.

Another problem is reclamation. The Report said that one Highland mine wellfield was in production for about ten years, but the mine plan estimated that it would take "one to three years to recover the leachable uranium..." The wellfield has been in the process of being "reclaimed" for ten years, but the permit says that restoration would take about five years. Even after ten years, the State says, the "ground water quality is similar to 'end of mining' wellfield conditions." So, ten years after mining ended, the water is still highly polluted.

There are similar problems at the Smith Ranch mine. There, the Notice of Violation says, "The permit states that it generally takes 'three years for uranium production, and three years for aquifer restoration.' Actual times for wellfield production and restoration are, thus far, 2-3 times longer than permit commitments."

The Report of Investigation goes on, "Over the years there have been an inordinate number of spills, leaks and other releases at this operation. Some 80 spills have been reported, in addition to numerous pond leaks, well casing failures and excursions. Unfortunately, it appears that such occurrences have become routine. The LQD currently has two large three-ring binders full of spill reports from the Smith Ranch – Highland operations." "Excur-

sions” are underground leaks of mining fluids into the surrounding water. Two surface spills in June 2007 released a total of 202,247 gallons of fluids.

The Report goes on to discuss bonding for the project, which would provide funds if PRI could not afford clean up or simply went out of business. Without a large enough bond, taxpayers are left paying for clean up. This has happened regularly throughout the history of uranium activities.

According to the State, PRI’s calculation of the amount of money that would be needed to cover mine reclamation doesn’t include enough funds. The State estimates that “a realistic reclamation cost estimate for this site would likely be in the order of \$150 million, as compared to PRI’s current calculation of \$38,772,800. PRI is presently bonded for a total of only \$38,416,500...Clearly the public is not protected.”

For more information: <http://www.nunnglow.com/questions-about-uranium.html>

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. 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.