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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **New Mexico Court of Appeals Upholds Copper Rule**

*Ruling Preserves Protections for New Mexico's Groundwater*

**Santa Fe** — Today, the New Mexico Court of Appeals upheld the newly-adopted Copper Mine Rules, keeping in place some of the most environmentally protective rules for the copper mining industry in the country.

New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ryan Flynn applauded today's ruling, saying, "The new Copper Rules adopted by the Water Quality Control Commission are among the toughest in the nation. They replace an antiquated system that was inadequate in protecting New Mexico's precious groundwater resources. They represent a balanced approach to protecting our water while still allowing for economic development and job creation."

The Court refused to delay the implementation of the new rules, writing, "... Appellants have not adequately demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits." The Court also states as a basis for denying the motions for stay that the "Appellants have not shown that irreparable harm will result if the effective date of the new Copper Mine Rule is not stayed..."

The motions were filed in February by New Mexico Attorney General Gary King and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, a left-wing activist organization, representing Gila Resources Information Project, Amigos Bravos, Turner Ranch Properties, and Bill Olson.

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