



**League of Women Voters of New Mexico**  
2315 San Pedro NE, (#F-6) , Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Tel: 505-884-8441, Web: [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org)

**Comment on the Proposed Copper Rule  
Water Quality Control Commission  
April 10, 2013**

After months of hearings and meetings with public interest groups, industry and government last year, the New Mexico Environment Department decided to disregard the public interest and bow to the mining industry's desires. This new proposal would permit copper mining companies to pollute groundwater underneath their mine sites.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico opposes this proposal, which flouts current state laws and implies that the New Mexico Environment Department favors corporate profits over the public interest.

We believe the state should require the mining industry to prevent pollution at its source, as common sense would dictate, rather than attempt to mitigate the effects of pollution after the fact.

We also object to the lack of transparency. Why even bother with the charade of going through a public process and then allowing the industry to gut the regulation in the dark? What happened to government in the sunshine? What happened to the interests of the residents of New Mexico?

Judith K Williams

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