

Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

From: Roger Peterson <rogpete@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 11:35 AM
To: Castaneda, Pam, NMENV
Subject: WQCC 12-0 (R)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Pam Castaneda, WQCC Administrator
Pam.Castaneda@state.nm.us

Ref: WQCC 12-0 (R)

Dear Ms. Castaneda--

Proposed weakening of the Water Quality Act is bad, bad, bad. Our right to good water, including groundwater, far outweighs the mining industry's desire to cut operating expense. And NMED's attempt to replace the Copper Rule Advisory Committee's bottom-up recommendations with a top-down administrative easing of restrictions, is procedurally bad, further undermining the public's faith in this administration.

Under the Act, no one has the right to pollute. The State should create no such right.

Roger Peterson
retired ecologist
Santa Fe

Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

From: smartin31@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 7:35 AM
To: Castaneda, Pam, NMENV
Cc: vargasan@taosnet.com
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to proposed regulations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Pam:

It was a pleasure meeting you yesterday at the Water Quality Control Commission hearing. The attached email is from a Sierra Club member in New Mexico. Could you please submit his comment for the record of the hearing?

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Susan Martin, Political Chair
Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club
cell (505) 670-3279

From: "Andres Vargas" <vargas@taosnet.com>
To: smartin31@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 7:16:20 AM
Subject: Opposition to proposed regulations

It is evident that Governor Martinez appointees want the right to pollute our ground water with impunity. As I recall, the prior regulations were approved by a bi-partisan group of experts after at least 2 years of discussions and who formulated strong regulations that would have protected our ground water and the environment from dangerous pollution at the hands of industry. However, the new appointees have a different agenda that strongly favors the copper industry as well as other potential polluters. My wife and I strongly appose these new regulations.

April 11, 2013

Pam Castaneda, Administrator
New Mexico Environmental Department
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, N2153
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



Dear Ms. Castaneda:

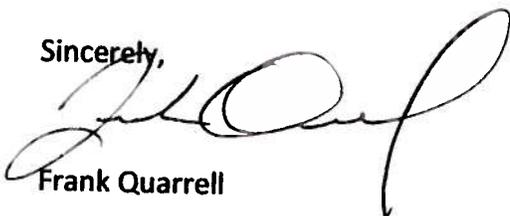
My name is Frank Quarrell and I am writing in support of proposed amendment 20.6.2 NMAC (Copper Rule), WQCC No. 12-01 (R). I am a life-long resident of southern New Mexico and have lived in Silver City for the past 32 years. From life experience I can tell you the Copper Industry is and has been the life blood of our county and community.

After decades of inconsistency, the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Proposed Copper Mining Rules are poised to provide clear expectations of how ground water is to be managed and protected by copper mining operations now and in the future. The current framework, developed in 1993, does not clearly define how ground water should be monitored and protected, leaving our ground water at the mercy of an unpredictable, inconsistent bureaucracy and making it difficult for mining companies to evaluate and plan their New Mexico investments that would create employment opportunities in the state.

A bipartisan bill signed by Governor Richardson in 2009 established the need for consistent regulations that would protect this precious resource around copper mining operations. Four years later, the WQCC has an opportunity to finally complete a process that has included months of meetings and deliberations between state officials, academics, resource management experts, environmental groups and industry representatives.

With the clear and consistent proposed rules (i.e., requiring new and expanded facilities equipped with technologies that will protect ground water, rigorous criteria for closing a mine to minimize ground water impacts, and revised engineering design requirements for waste rock, stockpiles, tanks, pipelines and impoundments) New Mexico's ground water will be better protected, and mining companies will be better equipped to invest in future operations and job creation. I encourage the WQCC to adopt the new rules for the benefit of New Mexico, its citizens, and its environment.

Sincerely,



Frank Quarrell