

Town of Hurley



MAYOR:
Edward M. Encinas

COUNCILORS:
Fernando G. Martinez
Freddie M. Rodriguez
Richard R. Maynes
Rudy M. Pena

P. O. Box 65
101 Cortez Avenue
Hurley, New Mexico 88043
PHONE: (575) 537-2287
FAX: (575) 537-2032

New Mexico Water Quality Commission April 22nd 2013

Atten: Pam Casteneda

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission has an opportunity to provide our state with improved regulations that define how ground water should be monitored and protected at copper mining operations.

After months of discussions among advisory committees and working groups that include government, academics, environmental interest groups and industry, the New Mexico Environment Department has submitted to the WQCC its "Proposed Copper Rules." The NMED recommends these rules replace our current bureaucratic, inconsistent system with a strict, consistent, clear and reliable framework to protect ground water today and for years after operations cease.

This is the kind of common sense reform we should expect from our government officials – ensuring the environment is protected while also giving an industry critical to our economy the kind of charity it needs to make additional investments and create jobs – jobs our rural southwestern communities depend on.

For the sake of our groundwater and New Mexico's economy, I encourage approval of these proposed copper rules.

Respectfully,


Edward Encinas, Mayor

Town of Hurley



City of Bayard

P. O. Box 728
800 Central Avenue
Bayard, New Mexico 88023

Phone 505 - 537-3327
Fax 505 - 537-5271
Bayard@gilanet.com

April 22, 2013

Pam Castaneda, Administrator
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, N2153
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Castaneda,

The City of Bayard would like to submit this letter of support for the "Proposed Copper Rules" being proposed to the Water Quality Control Commission. We feel the proposed rule will provide a stable regulatory framework that will improve New Mexico's ability to attract new mining investments and create the crucial jobs that we depend on for our rural southwest New Mexico communities.

These new rules replace an inconsistent system for protecting ground water, which is subject to various interpretations by regulators, inspectors and the industry. The new criteria provide more clarity, transparency and accountability around ground water protection by operators of copper mines.

These new regulations have two critical benefits: First of all, they require 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, so the Proposed Copper Rules will be a great step forward in environmental protection, regulation and enforcement.

Secondly, New Mexico's copper mining industry is a significant contributor to the state's economy, creating \$326 million in economic impact in 2011 that supported 4c328 New Mexican jobs. The Proposed Copper Rules will allow mining companies to better plan and invest in future operations, a critical step for economic development and job creation in several southern New Mexico communities.

We thank you for your efforts with this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles L. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Charles L. Kelly
Mayor

Pam Castañeda, Commission Administrator
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr. N-2150
Santa Fe, NM 87502



RE: Public Comment on Water Quality Rules for Copper Mining WQCC 12-01 (R)

Dear Ms. Castañeda:

I am writing to provide public comment on the proposed water quality rules for copper mining currently before the Water Quality Control Commission.

I do not support the proposed rules as currently written because they are contrary to the State Water Quality Act.

Nine out of ten New Mexicans are dependent upon groundwater for their drinking water and the rules before you will allow mining companies to pollute groundwater under mine sites above state and federal water quality standards rather than to prevent pollution. This is in violation of the State Water Quality Act.

Water quality safeguards have been in place for 35 years and this rule represents a significant step back for protection of New Mexico's groundwater resources.

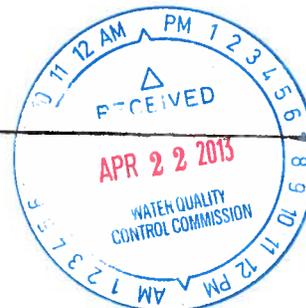
Please remand these rules back to the New Mexico Environment Department and their Copper Rules Advisory Committee for revision.

Sincerely,

Name
Address

Patey Dominguez
706 Fehy St
Bayard, N.M. 88023

Pam Castañeda, Commission Administrator
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr. N-2150
Santa Fe, NM 87502



RE: Public Comment on Water Quality Rules for Copper Mining WQCC 12-01 (R)

Dear Ms. Castañeda:

I am writing to provide public comment on the proposed water quality rules for copper mining currently before the Water Quality Control Commission.

I do not support the proposed rules as currently written because they are contrary to the State Water Quality Act.

Nine out of ten New Mexicans are dependent upon groundwater for their drinking water and the rules before you will allow mining companies to pollute groundwater under mine sites above state and federal water quality standards rather than to prevent pollution. This is in violation of the State Water Quality Act.

Water quality safeguards have been in place for 35 years and this rule represents a significant step back for protection of New Mexico's groundwater resources.

Please remand these rules back to the New Mexico Environment Department and their Copper Rules Advisory Committee for revision.

Sincerely,

Name
Address

DAVID A. PADILLA
P.O. BOX 321
BRYAN NM
88023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David A. Padilla'.

Pam Castañeda, Commission Administrator
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr. N-2150
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Public Comment on Water Quality Rules for Copper Mining WQCC 12-01 (R)

Dear Ms. Castañeda:

I am writing to provide public comment on the proposed water quality rules for copper mining currently before the Water Quality Control Commission.

I do not support the proposed rules as currently written because they are contrary to the State Water Quality Act.

Nine out of ten New Mexicans are dependent upon groundwater for their drinking water and the rules before you will allow mining companies to pollute groundwater under mine sites above state and federal water quality standards rather than to prevent pollution. This is in violation of the State Water Quality Act.

Water quality safeguards have been in place for 35 years and this rule represents a significant step back for protection of New Mexico's groundwater resources.

Please remand these rules back to the New Mexico Environment Department and their Copper Rules Advisory Committee for revision.

Sincerely,

Name

Socorro Padilla

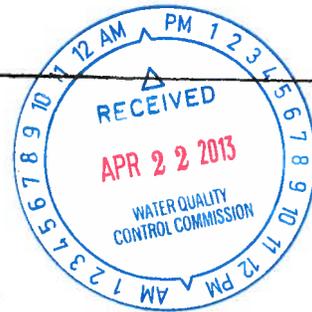


Address

P.O. Box 321

Brayard N.M. 88023

Pam Castañeda, Commission Administrator
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Dr. N-2150
Santa Fe, NM 87502



RE: Public Comment on Water Quality Rules for Copper Mining WQCC 12-01 (R)

Dear Ms. Castañeda:

I am writing to provide public comment on the proposed water quality rules for copper mining currently before the Water Quality Control Commission.

I do not support the proposed rules as currently written because they are contrary to the State Water Quality Act.

Nine out of ten New Mexicans are dependent upon groundwater for their drinking water and the rules before you will allow mining companies to pollute groundwater under mine sites above state and federal water quality standards rather than to prevent pollution. This is in violation of the State Water Quality Act.

Water quality safeguards have been in place for 35 years and this rule represents a significant step back for protection of New Mexico's groundwater resources.

Please remand these rules back to the New Mexico Environment Department and their Copper Rules Advisory Committee for revision.

Sincerely,

Kristene Sheryl

Name

Address

*when I drink the water without a filter
it makes me sick.*

421 maple st.

Bayard, NM

88023

928-420-3325