

Sallie McCarthy
3808 Oxbow Village Lane NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120
April 26, 2013

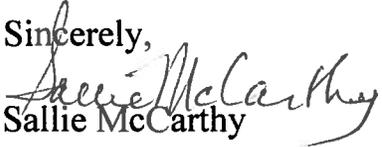
NM Water Quality Control Commission
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
Room N-2150
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

ATTN: Pam Castaneda, Commission Administrator

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing about groundwater quality rules for the copper industry in NM. We need strong rules in place to protect our water from copper drift into the groundwater. You are a neutral body representing the health of the community as well as the interests of the mining industry. I am sure that balancing these interests can be a challenge. While the NMED voted against the recommendations of NMED technical staff, you have the power and the opportunity to correct this dangerous action by voting to protect our water and our aquifer.

I appreciate your strong consideration of this appeal, and I thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Sallie McCarthy

Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

From: R.A.L. West <ralive9@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2013 11:25 AM
To: Castaneda, Pam, NMENV
Subject: Public Comment on Water Quality Rules for Copper Mining WQCC 12-01 (R)

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,
R.A.L. West
P.O. Box 20
Taos, NM 87571

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<http://www.AlienEyesArts.com>

<http://www.AccessDelight.com>

<http://www.cumforpeace.com>

R.A.L. West
P.O. Box 20
Taos, NM 87571-0020

"Our duty as people is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation" -
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

From: Van Clothier <streamdynamics@aznec.net>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2013 9:18 AM
To: Castaneda, Pam, NMENV
Subject: Public Comment on Water Quality Rules for Copper Mining WQCC 12-01 (R)

Dear Pam Castañeda,

The most economically valuable resources in our state are the copper mines in Grant County. At present they are owned and operated by a multinational corporation. It is to the advantage of the stockholders of any corporation to externalize as many costs as possible in order to maximize profits. This is done in many ways, including trying to weaken legislation that would balance corporate profit with responsible stewardship and environmental protection.

The New Mexico Environment Department was established to protect the people and environment of our state from this exact thing. I just looked on the NMED website and found this mission statement:

"The Department's mission is to provide the highest quality of life throughout the state by promoting a safe, clean and productive environment." <http://www.nmcnv.state.nm.us/Common/mission.htm>

This would naturally include protecting our groundwater from avoidable pollution. Pretty straightforward, wouldn't you agree? I am happy to pay my taxes which go in part toward salary for Environment Department staff who take their responsibility seriously.

Please do whatever is required to insure that the New Mexico Water Quality Act is not compromised.

Sincerely,

Van Clothier
Director



Stream Dynamics, Inc.

P.O. Box 2721, Silver City, New Mexico 88062

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575.388.5296 office • 575.590.0549 cell

Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

From: Water Singing-on-the-Rocks <watersotr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2013 12:10 PM
To: Castaneda, Pam, NMENV
Cc: nmelc@nmelc.org; Ortiz y Pino, Gerald
Subject: proposed water quality rules

The Water Quality Control Commission must not approve the proposed water quality rules for the copper mining industry. These proposed rules would reduce the necessary water quality protections that have been in place in New Mexico for over 35 years. The proposed rules would allow the mining industry to pollute thousands of acre-feet of groundwater. New Mexico cannot afford to lose one ounce of clean water yet the proposed rules are in direct conflict with the State Water Quality Act's requirement that polluters prevent groundwater contamination during their operations.

NMED's petition to re-write the rule represents a "gift" to the copper mining industry from the Martinez Administration. It must not be allowed; companies and entire industries must be prevented from threatening public health and our homes.

It is not possible for the Martinez Administration to clearly demonstrate a rational connection between its statutory responsibilities to protect the N.M. environment and the health of the New Mexican people and the choices it has been making. This Administration has not made public the reasons it has decided to ignore facts and recommendations made by the majority of experts in regards to the use of water and the destruction of public water supplies in order to make the decisions it proposes to make.

The proposed rules would allow the mining industry to pollute future drinking water supplies and impact the health of the citizens of New Mexico and our communities in numerous ways. The new rule would set a precedent that could pave the way for other industries to demand similar rollbacks in environmental, health and water quality safeguards.

The proposed rules would lower the cost of doing business in New Mexico while transferring the cost to New Mexico taxpayers of cleaning up the resulting environmental degradation and add exponentially to the cost of addressing public health concerns that would arise from the further contamination of our water, ground and air quality. In fact the proposed rules could be considered an infringement on our Constitutional Rights to health and happiness and their adoption might be considered as sufficient reason to subject certain officials to criminal prosecution.

It is incumbent upon the Water Quality Commission, representing We the People, to hold the Martinez

Administration to its statutory obligations... the Commission must, in no uncertain terms, put Governor Martinez on notice that all such attempts to sacrifice the public health and our environment on the altar of corporate profits will be rejected very publicly with all attendant publicity. The Commission must not adopt these industry-friendly rules proposed by the NMED.

Dr. Alan H. Feldman

3618-B Lisa Rd S.W.

Albuquerque, N.M. 87121

cc: NMELC

Jerry Ortiz y Pino

350.org