

April 23, 2013

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

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

Dear Ms. Castaneda:

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. They are contrary to the State Water Quality Act and detrimental to the health and welfare of New Mexico citizens.

Nine out of ten New Mexicans are dependent upon groundwater for their drinking water. The rules under consideration will allow mining companies to pollute groundwater above state and federal water quality levels when in fact we should be doing even more to guarantee the protection of our drinking water.

Water quality safeguards have been in place in New Mexico for 35 years. The proposed rule represents a giant step backwards. For the life of me, I can see no rationale for decreasing our water quality standards and putting the health of New Mexico citizens at risk. The only beneficiary of the proposed rule change is a copper mining conglomerate that has been fighting to lower the quality standards for the past ten years.

It is time to stand up for the public's interests. Please send these rules back to the New Mexico Environment Department and their Copper Rules Advisory Committee for revision.

Sincerely,



Dallas L. Rychener  
3201 Mann Dr.  
Silver City, NM 88061

## Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

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**From:** Suzanne LeBeau <smlebeau4@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 11:55 AM  
**To:** Castaneda, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** Re: WQCC 12-01 (R)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms. Castaneda,

I am concerned to learn about the possible reduction in water quality protections, which have been in place in new Mexico for over 35 years. We need to have strong copper rules in place to protect our water.

**REMEMBER, THIS IS WATER THAT YOU AND THE OTHER GOVERNING MEMBERS AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILIES WILL BE DRINKING AS WELL. IT SHOULD BE JUST AS IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT OUR WATER IS PROTECTED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM ALL INDUSTRIAL POLLUTANTS.**

I trust the Commission will do the right thing.

A Concerned Citizen,  
Suzanne LeBeau

## Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

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**From:** Matthew Gonzales <MGonzales@aci-nm.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:18 AM  
**To:** Castaneda, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Proposed Copper Rules  
**Attachments:** ACI Support Letter for Proposed Copper Rules.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ms. Castaneda

Attached to this email you will find our (ACI) support letter for the proposed copper rules. Please feel free to call or email me if you require any further information. Thank you.

### **Matthew E. Gonzales**

#### **Vice President, Government Affairs & Public Relations**

Association of Commerce and Industry

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April 11, 2013

Pam Castaneda, Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, N2153  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502  
E-mail: [Pam.Castaneda@state.nm.us](mailto:Pam.Castaneda@state.nm.us)  
Fax Number: (505) 827-0310

RE: In the Matter of Proposed Amendment to 20.6.2 NMAC (Copper Rule),  
WQCC No. 12-01 (R)

Dear Ms. Castaneda:

Pursuant to 303.B of the Procedural Order in this matter, the Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI) hereby submits this written non-technical statement for the record. ACI is the statewide advocate of business interests, and we serve as the state chamber of commerce. Our mission is to enrich the lives and prosperity of New Mexicans through a vibrant business climate built by effective advocacy and education.

ACI represents all business sectors and all geographic areas both urban and rural alike. ACI is dedicated to evolving and growing our economy. Economic growth leads to greater opportunity for all New Mexicans but especially our graduating university students. A vibrant economy means our best and brightest are more likely to remain in New Mexico. The result is a robust tax base and commercial sustainability.

ACI is the link between industry and our government and actively advocates on behalf of our members to promote pro-business legislation and regulations. However, this advocacy is not at the expense of the environment or in exploitation of our natural resources. We support rules and regulations that balance the interests of industry with a keen eye towards potential impacts.

Year after year, businesses tell ACI that one of the most important requirements for attracting investment is a predictable regulatory environment. Too often, regulators are left with a tremendous amount of discretion when dealing with businesses, and the end result is a moving target of requirements needed to invest in our state. ACI has reviewed the proposed copper rules at issue in this matter, and we believe that the rules provide the copper mining industry with a clear, consistent, and stable regulatory framework necessary to encourage economic stability and potential growth. Consequently, ACI congratulates the New Mexico Environment Department on proposing a set of rules that retain and attract investment in the state, and we strongly support the copper rules as proposed.

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As indicated in our 2013 Policy Agenda, our state has lagged for too long behind its neighbors. Too many of our citizens live in poverty. Unemployed and underemployed New Mexicans want good jobs. New Mexico businesses want to provide those jobs. The will is there. We call on our legislators and our Governor to assist with the means: economic policies and regulatory changes that promote business growth. Accordingly, we now call on the Water Quality Control Commission to promote jobs and business growth by adopting the copper rules as proposed by the New Mexico Environment Department and supported by the copper mining industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverlee McClure', written over a horizontal line.

Beverlee McClure, President  
Association of Commerce & Industry