

## Castaneda, Pam, NMENV

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**From:** Walter "Ski" Szymanski <walt.szymanski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2013 8:33 AM  
**To:** Castaneda, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** Proposed water quality rules for copper mining

Dear Ms. Castañeda:

As someone who lives within minutes of two massive open-pit copper mines, I am writing to ask that the proposed water quality rules for copper mining currently before the Water Quality Control Commission be remanded back to the New Mexico Environment Department and their Copper Rules Advisory Committee for revision.

I ask that the rules be remanded because as they are currently written they are clearly contrary to the State Water Quality Act.

Under the proposed rules, mining companies will be allowed to pollute groundwater under mine sites (like at what I live next to) at a higher level than state and federal water quality standards. This is in violation of the State Water Quality Act and must not be allowed to happen.

New Mexico water quality safeguards have been in place for 35 years and the proposed rules represent a significant step back for protection of our state's precious groundwater resources.

I do not support the proposed rules and ask that they be remanded for revision.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Walter Szymanski  
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We're certainly a dominant species, but that's not the same as a keystone species. A keystone species is one that, when you remove it, the diversity collapses; we're a species that when you add us, the diversity collapses. We can change everything, dictate everything and destroy everything. —Michael Soulé, a founder of the field of conservation biology, 2002