



Our membership and services span the globe

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January 15, 2010

CDPHE Radiation Program
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246-1530

Dear Program Manager:

The Northwest Mining Association and our more than 1,800 members, including more than 250 living and working in Colorado, appreciate this opportunity to comment in support of the rapid approval of the Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill proposed for the Paradox Valley area by Energy Fuels Inc.

NWMA is a 115 year-old non-profit mining industry trade association with offices in Spokane, Washington, and 1,800 members residing in 40 states. Our members are actively involved in exploration, mining, and reclamation operations in every western state. Our membership represents every facet of the mining industry including geology, exploration, mining, reclamation, engineering, equipment manufacturing, technical services, and sales of equipment and supplies. Our broad-base membership includes many small miners and exploration geologists as well junior and large mining companies. More than 90% of our members are small businesses or work for small businesses.

Our members have extensive first-hand experience with locating mining claims, exploring for mineral deposits, finding and developing mineral deposits, permitting exploration and mining projects, operating mines, reclaiming mine sites, and ensuring that exploration and mining projects comply with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations.


According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, U.S. energy demands will increase 26% from 2007 to 2030. Nuclear technology has a long track record of safely, inexpensively and reliably producing significant quantities of base-load electricity and nuclear power currently accounts for some 20% of America's energy production. To answer the forecasted need for increased base-load energy generation, US nuclear utilities have slated 34 additional nuclear reactors for construction and operation before 2030. This number of new reactors will require 18-20 million additional pounds of uranium as fuel, uranium which America must begin to produce again. We are currently importing more than 95% of our required uranium, and with increasing world energy demand we will no longer be able to rely on existing foreign sources. However, new production in the U.S. requires the presence of the new generation of uranium mill that Energy Fuels is proposing at Pinon Ridge.

America's nuclear utilities require, as a matter of corporate common sense, that a healthy share of their uranium fuel come from secure American mines. Conventional uranium mining, such as that planned for the Western Slope of Colorado, cannot occur without the presence of a modern

ore milling facility. The planned Pinon Ridge Mill will become the first new uranium mill to be built in America in three decades, and will enable the commencement of safe, high-tech and high-paying uranium mining and related jobs to begin again in Montrose County.

We urge the CDPHE to undertake a careful but swift review and approval process for the Pinon Ridge Mill. America's energy future, as well as our economic and national security, depends on it.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skaer".

Laura Skaer
Executive Director