

262 Lincoln Street Lander, WY 82520

- t: 307,332.7031
- f: 307.332.6899



June 24, 2011

Nancy Nuttbrock
Land Quality Administrator
Dept. of Environmental Quality
Land Quality Division
Herschler Bldg.
122 W. 25th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Lost Creek ISR, LLC Lost Creek Permit (2) mining permit

Notice of Written Objection Sent by Fax on June 24, 2011 307-777-5864

Dear Ms. Nuttbrock:

I am writing on behalf of Wyoming Outdoor Council and am filing a written objection to the proposed mining permit for the Lost Creek ISR mine in Sweetwater County. The basis for this written objection is as follows:

- 1. Wyoming Outdoor Council objects to the reclassification of the HJ Horizon of the Battle Spring Formation as Class V (Mineral Commercial) groundwater of the state. The reclassified region includes the area that is part of the commercially producible mineral (uranium), but also includes an area beyond that zone, specifically an area outside of this zone, out to and including the next 1/4 1/4 section. We do not believe this is justifiable, in that the additional expanded commercial mineral zone is not justified and is not necessary to produce uranium for the permittee, Lost Creek ISR, LLC. There has been no showing that expansion of the Mineral Commercial zone is justified or warranted.
- 2. Extending the Class V (Mineral Commercial) groundwater zone 1/4 mile beyond the monitoring well perimeter is also completely unjustified. The monitoring wells should be the absolute outside limit for the extension of any mineral commercial zone. This is due to the fact that assuring clean-up of the groundwater after mining operations cease cannot be assured beyond the monitoring well perimeter. To assume the opposite is speculative at best, and dangerous at worst.

- 3. Since a geologic fault line transects the mining area, we do not believe that adequate precautions have been taken to prevent lixiviant and associated minerals and contaminants from moving along that fault line and contaminate groundwater outside of the mineral zone and associated cone of depression for the mining operations. Given the groundwater regime in the area, and surface waters which may be affected, additional precautions are necessary.
- 4. We do not believe that adequate precautions have been taken with regard to old abandoned wells in the area. Before being issued a mining permit, a thorough survey of the area should be undertaken to identify, and then plug and properly abandon old wells (both in situ and oil and gas wells, as well as water wells) that currently exist in the mining area. This is necessary in order to prevent lixiviant, associated minerals, and contaminants from moving along such available conduits and contaminating groundwater outside the mineral zone and/or mining permit area.

Thank you very much for considering these concerns with regard to this Lost Creek mining permit. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Jones

Watershed Protection Program Attorney

Wyoming Outdoor Council

262 Lincoln St.

Lander, WY 82520

307-332-7031 ext 12

307-332-6899 (FAX)

steve@wvomingoutdoorcouncil.org