

# ***SAVE OUR SOUTH PARK WATER 08***

Good Morning:

We have received notification from the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety that the rulemaking process for HB 1161, SB 228 and SB 169 is scheduled to begin. These three legislative bills were adopted by the 2008 legislature and are the first ever statutory controls on in situ leach mining for uranium in Colorado.

The first stakeholders meeting is set for Wednesday, May 27th at 1:00 PM in room 318 of the state office building at 1313 Sherman St.. This building is 1 block directly south of the capitol building. The agenda includes presentations by DRMS staff concerning:

- Summary of HB 1161, SB 228 and SB 169
- Overview of draft regulations for implementation of these statutes
- Discussion of the stakeholder process in rulemaking

No public comment will be taken at this meeting.

It is critical that we become actively involved in the process TO PROTECT OUR WATER, LAND AND PROPERTY VALUES. Please let us know if you plan to attend the meeting. We need your involvement and participation to ensure that our voice is heard.

There are two other important issues currently requiring our attention. These are the announcement by El Paso Gas to drill 6 exploratory wells in the Hartsel area and recent "Notice of Assessment" regarding property taxes.

The area that El Paso has targeted is generally in the playa, Bald Hill area a few miles north of Hartsel. I believe the three original locations are on either DOW or BLM land. In addition to residences, this area is absolutely critical to wildlife and ground water resources. Natural gas was recently at a multi-year low price and a multi-year high for supplies. El Paso's entry into this largely unexplored intermontane basin seems strange when an experienced hand has told us that natural gas production is currently far cheaper to buy than find. There are hundreds of "shut in" wells and drilling rigs stacked all over the US that were busy drilling at this time last year when gas and oil prices were at multi-year highs.

If you would like to see what a lovely neighbor natural gas wells make, may I recommend a visit to several areas in Colorado including Bayfield, Rangely or the DJ

Basin including Kersey. Suppose they drill and leave, they don't find commercially recoverable quantities of gas at this time. They will leave an environmental disaster that we will live with for a couple of hundred years.

Park County, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Colorado Division of Wildlife must be held accountable for making a maximum effort to ensure a minimum negative impact on our area. Any of you who would like SOSPW08 to become more involved in this issue, please contact us.

Its hard for me to know where to start regarding the recent "Notice of Assessment". Everyone I have spoken to in the area has seen there assessed values increase by double digit percentages. This must be what it means to be "kicked when you're down". I'm not a world, or even locally, renowned authority on the subject, but I know I wouldn't buy a property for half of what the county says its worth. Who would? With uranium claim stakes all over? Heard of any good, new jobs in South Park lately? Lets go back to a year ago, March, April and May of 2008. (All of which are in the base assessment period.) Do you know anyone in our area that sold a property during that period for more that it was worth in 2007? Do you know anyone that sold a property, period? Sale is defined as "willing" seller and buyer.

We need to organize and fight this or you will be paying too high taxes for years to come. Maybe Park County paved Elkhorn and I hadn't noticed. The county surely has been spending a great deal of our tax dollars on infrastructure improvements in our area, NOT! We need volunteers to help compile "comparatives" data. And each a everyone of you needs to call the Park County Assessors Office to complain and FILE A FORMAL PROTEST BY MAY 29. Please contact us with any useful information you may have or to volunteer.

Our friends at the Tallahassee Community group in Fremont County have a new short film on the dangers of uranium mining, milling and nuclear power. It may be viewed at [www.downtheyellowcakeroad.org](http://www.downtheyellowcakeroad.org)

. Well worth your time to view. Congratulations to Kay and Jim Hawlee on their incredible efforts.

It feels kind of good to be "back in the saddle" after a few months hiatus. Lets get busy and make a difference!

Best regards,

Doran