

Additional Reviews By M. D. Campbell and Associates, L.P.
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Article in Question:

From "The Coloradoan.com"

Monday, June 11, 2007

Just say, 'No way' to uranium

Jackie Adolph

Uranium mining in Northern Colorado?

[Note that the author says "Northern Colorado". The mining is not even taking place in the author's county. Fort Collins is in Larimer County and the mining is in Weld County.]

What are we thinking? With so many problems on our minds, it is easy to push away issues and pretend that threats are not real. This issue of uranium in-situ mining is not going away. It is a mess that won't really ever be cleaned up if it starts.

[1) The author is entreating the reader to join her in a folksy, group-fearing exercise by claiming uranium in-situ mining is to be feared without providing one reason except to "believe" in her fear.

2) Providing no reasons, the author raises the issues of who is paying for her activities, research, newspapers, etc? Is she, by chance or otherwise, promoting the wind or solar-power industries?]

You could "Google" uranium pollution and probably not find one site that has been cleared of radiation or water problems due to uranium mining.

[1) What is the meaning of this sentence? Is she not aware that state regulatory agencies are responsible for assessing such issues on behalf of the public?

2) The use of the qualifier "probably" suggests that she did not actually conduct this search. Therefore, this sentence is unsubstantiated and biased.]

We already have radon issues in Fort Collins, so we know we are sitting on top of it. According to the United States EPA Web site on radon, higher incidence of radon increases the risk for lung cancer (a citizen's guide to Radon).

[1) This is true. It is estimated that 70% of the homes in Fort Collins have naturally-occurring radon levels in excess of the 4 pCi/L action level set by EPA.

2) If she knows that the town is sitting on top of radioactive material (radon), why would anyone still live in Fort Collins?

3) Why is the distant threat of mining in Weld County more of a threat than the radon below your own town?].

Uranium does not pose nearly the risk (as radon?) until exposed to air. Then the **real trouble begins.**

[It is the natural radioactive decay of uranium that creates radon gas, and radon gas, in elevated levels, may lead to health problems. Even then, “real trouble” may not follow.]

Here in Larimer County, we seem to be turning a blind eye to what Weld County may allow. Believe me, a county line will not stop the impact from reaching all of Larimer County and beyond.

[1) The Centennial Project lies within portions of Townships 8, 9 and 10 North, Range 67 West, approximately 14 miles northeast of Fort Collins and 16 miles northwest of Greeley. It is obvious here that the author has taken no time whatsoever to research this claim.

2) The productive unit at Centennial is the Fox Hills Sandstone which clogs out between the project area and Fort Collins, dipping eastward into the Denver-Julesburg Basin. The Fox Hills is not present beneath Fort Collins. A county line may not stop migration but a strong hydrologic gradient into the DJ basin will.

3) This is an example of a reporter disseminating inaccurate and misleading information for the sole purpose of making people fearful and of gaining readership.]

Since I became aware of it, I have spoken to 10 people a day in Fort Collins. Nine out of 10 respond with shock and thought that this could never happen here! We wouldn't allow it, right? Well, who are we, and when will we stand up and stop this?

[1) The author attempts to use the consensus of a group of people to confirm her fears. If they believe what she just told them then she must be correct and therefore they have to believe her.

2) No one has bothered to actually check any facts related to this perceived danger.

3) This sentence is an attempt to get people to believe in her views.]

It has been covered in the media, but it seems that it has failed to show up on the internal radar screens as danger! Uranium mining cannot be treated or permitted the same as gas and oil mining. It is not the same threat to the environment.

[1) The author is still engaging the reader by offering colorful language, such as “internal radar screens”, etc., and claims one energy source (uranium) is different from another source (oil & gas). How many oil & gas wells have experienced blow outs throughout the world and how many refineries have experienced explosions and fires just over the past 30 years? How many people have been killed?

2) Then ask the same question for nuclear power plants. The answer is zero for the latter.

3) Then, how many gas stations have leaked gasoline below the stations? Answer: approximately 85% of all service stations in the U.S. have leaked in to the ground water below and required clean-up by state-funded programs.]

Technology has not changed since water contamination in Goliad, Texas, prompted changes to stop uranium mining.

[1) The company recently provided an update that the Texas Railroad Commission had concluded that the Goliad drilling operations had not caused ground-water pollution. Production from the mine is expected to begin by the third quarter of 2009.

2) Where did the author get the information for the above statements? No basis provided for such claims].

Many areas already ban this (the entire Navajo Nation tribal lands in Arizona and Utah), but in most cases, the damage is already done (<http://www.irc-online.org/americaspolicy/amcit/3963>). In news released to investors May 24, *Powertech* calculated that there are 9,730,490 pounds of U_3O_8 , plus or minus 3 million to 5 million pounds, in the Centennial Project to be extracted. Water can be contaminated even during the "prospecting" phase.

[1) Powertech has conducted no exploration of this project to date. They are evaluating the 2,235 borings already installed during exploratory operations in the 1970s and 1980s.

2) "Prospecting" wells are required to be abandoned by state regulations. Oil & gas wells have a greater potential of contaminating "water" (read as aquifers) than uranium-exploration holes. Furthermore, in zones of uranium mineralization, the ground water is already "contaminated" by natural processes not by exploration companies.]

During their work begun in 1974, ore was shipped into Wyoming for processing. (<http://www.powertechuranium.com>) Will our highways also be at risk for spills during transport?

[1) Yes, there is always a risk of vehicular accidents. But there is also a risk when you step off the curb at a bus stop.

2) The risk from spills of low-level radioactive materials along the highway is no greater than a tanker full of gasoline on a highway.

3) Uranium ore is especially low-level radioactive material.

4) Since the author knows little of her subject, who has permitted or engaged her to pollute the Internet with such misinformation regarding uranium mining?].

This resource, with all its pitfalls and health threats, will not even benefit Colorado in any way.

[Where does this author get such ignorant ideas to pass on to people? The uranium resource will benefit Colorado in several ways:

a) Permit fees to State agencies allow for continued regulatory oversight of many industries,

b) mining corporations pay taxes, allowing for the maintenance of existing infrastructure and the development of new roads, etc.,

c) jobs are created and these people also pay taxes into the State coffers,

d) royalties are paid, allowing a higher standard of living and more taxes collected for goods purchased, etc.]

Far more valuable is our environment and the future generations that will inhabit this terrain.

[Platitudes without providing evidence. Overstatement without supporting information].

Water is at a premium in Colorado; those of us who have domestic wells feel fortunate. If all the ranches in the proposed area need to abandon their properties and wells, and the county wells are also affected, where will we be then?

[Ludicrous claims and insinuations designed to make the reader fearful about losing all ground-water supplies when it is the responsibility of the state to insure that this does not happen. Author assumes there is no state agency.]

Real estate will plummet. Health will nose-dive as well. Not the best place to live in the United States anymore? The little group of Nunnglow.com needs help and participation to stop this from all of us (see <http://www.nunnglow.com> .

[1) Blatantly false claims to entice membership fees.

2) Who else is paying for the activities of the author? Wind and solar-energy industries?]

We need a resolution to stop uranium mining in Colorado. Get informed and be ready to vote or sign petitions when they emerge. This toothpaste needs to stay in the tube.

[Subterfuge with her own agenda?].

Jackie Adolph is a Colorado native who lives in Fort Collins.