



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Kenneth Maryboy	Chairman
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November 17, 2020

Mr. Drummond Earley
Utah Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

Re: Lisbon Valley Mining Company In Situ Copper Recovery Proposal

Dear Mr. Earley:

We have reviewed your Public Notice of Intent to Issue a Permit for Underground Injection for In Situ Copper Recovery at the Lisbon Valley Copper Mine in San Juan County and have concerns about the potential effects on underground water quality.

This proposal includes the injection of an acid solution and the recovery of that solution with extracted copper from the Burro Canyon aquifer. This aquifer and others in the area are the sources of culinary and livestock water used by residents and livestock operations in the area.

Residents and livestock users of these existing water wells are understandably concerned with the potential effects on water quality of these wells with the proposed injection of a sulfuric acid solution into the aquifer that supplies these wells. Quality water sources are scarce in this area and degradation or decrease of these waters would have devastating effects on culinary and livestock users of these waters.

We recommend that this proposal be explained in a public hearing where representatives of the mining company, your office and other agency officials would explain the proposal and its potential effects and answer questions from the public and concerned landowners. This would hopefully allow for a better understanding of the proposal and potential effects and allow for informative comments.

We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Maryboy
Commission Chairman