

# Uranium Watch – Utah Bulletin

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## ◆ **Division of Water Rights to Hold Hearings in Moab on Water Right Protests for a Uranium Mine and a Uranium Mill - October 1**

On October 1, 2009, the State Engineer, Utah Division of Water Rights, will hold hearings on the protests of appropriations of water for a uranium mine and a uranium mill. The hearings will be held at the Grand County Council Chambers, 125 East Center, Moab, Utah. The informal hearings are open to the public, but they are not an opportunity for general public comment.

At 8:30 a.m.: Hearing on Uranium Watch and other protests of appropriation of water for the Utah Energy Corporation's Daneros Uranium Mine, Bull's Eye Canyon, in San Juan County. Additional information: <http://www.uraniumwatch.org/danerosmine.ut.htm>

At 9:30 a.m.: Hearing on Moab and Green River protests of Mancos Resources Inc. request for 800 acre-feet of water from the Green River for a Uranium Mill west of the City of Green River. Additional Information: <http://www.uraniumwatch.org/mancosmill.htm>

## ◆ **San Juan County Water Conservancy District Files Application for Water for Nuclear Reactor – Protests Due October 14**

On August 27, 2009, the San Juan Water Conservancy District filed a Change Application for 24,000 acre-feet of water from the Green River for the proposed nuclear power reactor in Green River, Utah. The proposed changes to Water Right 09-492 are to the point of diversion, place of use, nature of use, and for reservoir storage of the water. Protests are due on October 14, 2009, by 6 p.m. Mail to Kent L. Jones, State Engineer, P.O. Box 146300, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300. Fax to 801-538-7467. E-mail to [kellyhome@utah.gov](mailto:kellyhome@utah.gov). Fax or electronic filings must be followed by a paper copy in the mail. There is now a filing fee of \$15.00.

In addition to the water from San Juan County, Transition Power Development leased 29,600 acre feet of water from the Kane County Water Conservancy District for the proposed nuclear reactor. The date for the hearing on the protests has not been set.

Additional Information:

- Uranium Watch: <http://www.uraniumwatch.org/transitionpower.htm>
- Water Right 09-462: <http://waterrights.utah.gov/cblapps/wrprint.exe?wrnum=09-462>

## ◆ **October 7 Public Hearing on Modification of White Mesa Uranium Mill - Ground Water Discharge Permit No. UGW370004**

The Utah Division of Radiation Control (DRC) noticed a Modification to the Denison Mines (USA) Corporation Ground Water Discharge Permit for the White Mesa Uranium Mill. A hearing will be held October 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Blanding Arts and Events Center, 715 West 200 South, Blanding, Utah. Written comments are due by 5 p.m. October 8. Send to the Division of Radiation Control, P.O. 144850, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4850; or e-mail to [pgoble@utah.gov](mailto:pgoble@utah.gov). Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling Phil Goble at (801) 536-4044 or via e-mail at [pgoble@utah.gov](mailto:pgoble@utah.gov).

Additional Information, with links to the notice, draft permit, and statement of basis:

- DRC: [http://www.radiationcontrol.utah.gov/Uranium\\_Mills/IUC/groundwaterpmt/index.html](http://www.radiationcontrol.utah.gov/Uranium_Mills/IUC/groundwaterpmt/index.html)
- Uranium Watch: <http://www.uraniumwatch.org/denisonmill.ut.htm>

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435-210-0166 | PO Box 344 | 76 South Main, #7 | Moab, Utah 84532

**◇ Uranium Mines in La Sal Vent Radon Less Than Half Mile from Elementary School, La Sal Store, and Post Office**

Denison Mines (USA) Corporation (DMC) is operating 2 uranium mines in La Sal, Utah: Pandora Mine and La Sal Complex (Beaver Shaft, La Sal, and Snowball). These mines are all connected underground. Radon is being vented about ¼ mile from the center of the rural community of La Sal—the store, Post Office, and Elementary School. The radon is vented from the mine so that the workers will not be exposed, since it is the exposure to the radon gas and its highly radioactive progeny that are the primary cause of illness and death to uranium miners and mill workers. Federal regulation limits the amount of radon exposure to the nearest resident, but there is no off-site monitoring at the points of exposure and no La Sal meteorological data available. The mine operator monitors the radon from the vents and uses a computer model to calculate the exposures. It is difficult to accurately determine the radon exposure and radon progeny pathways, if a vent is close to a residence or other receptor.

The Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is considering a permit application for the non-radiological emissions from the La Sal Mines and Uranium One's Velvet Mine in Lisbon Valley.

**◇ Utah Division of Air Quality Fails to Implement Responsibilities for Uranium Mine Radon Emissions**

The DAQ has neglected its responsibilities to administer and enforce the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations for National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS) for the radon from uranium mines (40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart B). The regulations require an application by the mine owner and DAQ approval before construction or modification of a Subpart B source of radon emissions. The DAQ has not been requiring such an application or issuing approvals. Recently, the EPA (in response to Uranium Watch's concerns) informed the DAQ that applications and approvals are required, and that the Energy Queen Mine in La Sal also falls under Part 61, Subpart B, regulation.

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