



Dear Pam Castaneda, Administrator

New Mexico Environmental Department

April 19, 2013

New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission has an opportunity to provide our state with improved regulations that define how ground water should be monitored and protected at copper mining operations.

After months of discussions among advisory committees and working groups that included government, academics, environmental interest groups and industry, the New Mexico Environment Department has submitted to the WQCC its "Proposed Copper Rules." The NMED recommends these rules replace our current bureaucratic, inconsistent system with a strict, consistent, clear and reliable framework to protect ground water today and for years after operations cease.

This is the kind of common sense reform we should expect from our government officials – ensuring the environment is protected while also giving an industry critical to our economy the kind of clarity it needs to make additional investments and create jobs – jobs our rural southwestern communities depend on.

For the sake of our groundwater and New Mexico's economy, Employees encourage approval of these proposed copper rules.

New Mexico Gas Company Employee who service over 9,000 customers in Grant County, would encourage all community partners and customers to become familiar with the future proposed regulations and how it truly impacts our economy, as well as, our communities.

Respectfully,

*NMGCO Employees – Silver City*