

October 10, 2011

**Ms. Venice Scheurich, Public Conference Call Comments Pertaining to Groundwater Restored to Amended Values Oct 10, 2011 2:38 pm**

Dear Dr. Kooyoomjian,

The industry representative who made public comments during last week's conference call listed many uranium mines at which he claimed post-operational groundwater had been restored. Thus far, I have been unable to verify his claim. Perhaps he meant that groundwater had been restored to *amended* values rather than initially agreed upon values. If so, he did not make that critical distinction clear.

As you know, Texas regulations allow companies to restore to amended uranium values which are always much higher than values that the companies agreed to—based on samples from their chosen baseline wells—at the time they were granted permits for Production Authorization Areas. A clear illustration of this can be found on page 10 of the following document:

*Susan Hall, Groundwater Restoration at Uranium In-Situ Recovery Mines, South Texas Coastal Plains, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Open File Report, 2009 – 1143.*

The concern of the Coastal Bend Sierra Club remains with the questionable practice of locating baseline wells which yield data playing a crucial role in determining pre-operational baseline values, in establishing post-operational restoration standards, and in influencing EPA decisions re whether to grant Aquifer Exemptions.

I would appreciate your sharing this e-mail with members of the RAC who participated in last Wednesday's public conference call.

Sincerely,

Venice Scheurich, Conservation Chair  
Coastal Bend Sierra Club