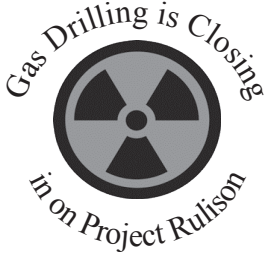


Western Colorado Congress
PO Box 1931
Grand Junction, CO 81502



Speak Out on Drilling Near Nuclear Blast Sites!

NEW COLORADO OIL AND GAS COMMISSION TO HOLD HEARING IN GRAND JUNCTION ON PROJECT RULISON GAS DRILLING

Dear Garfield County Resident,

On October 2, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) will hold an informational hearing in Grand Junction on natural gas development around the Project Rulison site. This hearing comes on the heels of BLM's decision to approve development of 82 new wells within three miles of the blast site over the next four years.

Colorado's new oil and gas commissioners want to hear your opinions on the dangers of drilling around a nuclear blast site!

Need For The Hearing

New laws recently expanded the COGCC from seven members to nine, reduced the number of commissioners with industry experience from five to three, and mandated that the Commission better balance energy development with impacts to public health, wildlife, and our environment.

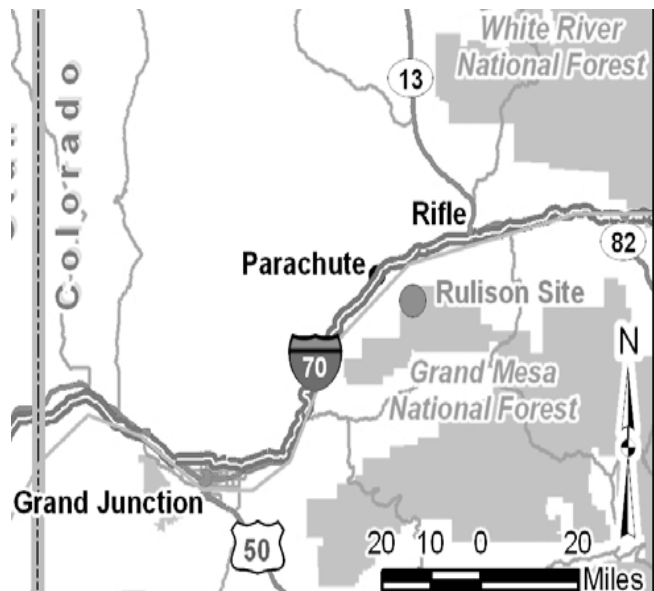
Under this new law, the COGCC now has eight new commissioners. To better do their jobs of protecting the public, the commissioners want and need to learn more about Project Rulison and the dangers and citizen concerns created by natural gas development around nuclear blast sites. At this hearing they will hear from scientists, regulators, and industry representatives.

The COGCC must hear from you and other residents who live within miles of this development and its uncertainties!

Site Background

Project Rulison (see map) was an underground nuclear detonation on September 10, 1969 designed to stimulate the release of natural gas. The 43-kiloton device was three times as powerful as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

The blast did free up natural gas, but it was highly radioactive and had to be burned off. The bomb emplacement site was closed to development in 1976, and a three mile zone around the blast was considered off limits.



Today, concern remains over how much radioactivity remains underground and where it is located. Many of the materials left behind, like Tritium and Krypton, move easily in gas and water.

Also, there have been very few studies to determine what has happened with the highly radioactive heavy metals left over from the blast. These materials take thousands of years to decay and remain radioactive throughout that time.

COGCC regulates activity here, but even though it doesn't know what's underground and doesn't have an emergency plan, it doesn't forbid drilling! COGCC's only plan is to hold a hearing when a well is proposed within 1/2 mile, and plan for an emergency once it hits.

Risks

Drilling at the site poses many risks that should concern you:

- Battlement Creek and your drinking water could be contaminated by radioactive material that takes thousands of years to decay.
- The Colorado River could become contaminated, affecting all downstream uses and users.
- Contaminated natural gas could be placed in pipelines bound for homes.
- Radioactive gas could be released into the atmosphere, potentially exposing thousands in the area.

The impacts to your quality of life could be irreversible!

Hearing Details:

October 2, 2007
Public Hearing Room
Old Court House
544 Rood Avenue, 2nd Floor
Grand Junction

Testimony Begins at 10 AM

If you cannot attend the hearing, please e-mail any comments for hand delivery to the Commission to patrick@wccongress.org.

A bus travelling to the hearing will leave Glenwood Springs by 8 AM. Call 970.379.3252 to reserve your space!