

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Groundwater Protection at In Situ Leach Uranium Recovery Facilities

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Ground Water Protection at Uranium In Situ Recovery Facilities

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## General Comment

As you surely know, the mining of uranium could pollute the very groundwater that western states might well need during droughts.

The method most used to mine uranium today - in situ uranium recovery - pumps an oxygen-enriched solution into the ground to dissolve uranium deposits.

More chemicals are used to remove the liquid uranium.

Mining companies are supposed to repair damage from uranium mining, but Thomas Borch, an environmental chemistry professor at Colorado State University, led a study that found uranium levels in water at a Wyoming well were more than 70 times higher after mining.

Let that sink in.

Seventy times higher!

Now EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, who once lobbied for a uranium miner, has sabotaged more stringent mining rules.

Rules proposed by the EPA in 2015 would have required ISR uranium mining companies to monitor groundwater for up to 30 years.

The proposed rules were revised in 2017 after opposition from mining companies.

It seems the Mr. Wheeler, who once lobbied for Energy Fuels, withdrew the proposed EPA regulations.

He claims the public health and environmental benefits of the proposed rules are limited.

I'm certain he did not consider industry benefits last.

Now the foxes are guarding our henhouses, destroying their walls, as industry lobbyists, executives and consultants take over the very agencies that are mandated to protect the public interest, safeguard the environment, and protect the future.

Will legislators and oversight agencies - will YOU - collude with industry interests placed within regulatory agencies to sabotage the mandates of regulatory government.

Will YOU allow that egregious corruption of democracy heightened greatly in the Trump Administration - even further than industry's undue influence through campaign money and lobbying?

It seems Mr. Wheeler is more accustomed to working for industry goals than protecting the environment or public health - or safeguarding groundwater for usage in future drought:

Mr. Wheeler worked for Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting in 2017 before Trump nominated him to become deputy administrator of the EPA.

Energy Fuels paid Faegre Baker Daniels \$40,000 as recently as 2017.

Now the corruption if the public interest has become shameless.

Don't think the public you claim to serve does not notice.