

November 29, 1979

Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1588 W. N. Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

RECEIVED

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Re: Formal Protest
Order to Show Cause
No. ACT-021-004

By reasons listed below, the undersigned by virtue of this letter do hereby take exception to the tentative decision rendered by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining and register our protest to action proposed by Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation.

It is our firm conviction that the process of dewatering the area surrounding the mine is extremely detrimental to the underground water table and is therefore a direct threat to our livelihood as farmers. The continued existence of farming operations that have been productive here for 20 and 30 years is directly contingent on the continued supply of our underground water.

Past history can verify the detriment caused to the surrounding irrigation wells when the mine dewatering program was attempted previously. The extensive engineering study recently completed by Ranchers Exploration does in fact acknowledge that certain areas of productive agricultural land will suffer a significant reduction of 10-20 feet in the underground water table directly caused by the proposed dislocation of our water by the mine.

The efforts shown by Ranchers to relocate our water in a natural channel is considered an appeasement attempt and does not confront the basic fact that they are disturbing a substantial portion of a fragile undetermined supply of underground water.

The relocation process will be very wasteful of this precious commodity by the fact that it will simply be dumped on the surface with the expectation of recharge to the underground supply in another area.

Ranchers also stress in their public relations campaign that the water will be available to the area farmers without the cost of pumping to the surface. This is a misconception provided by Ranchers which may appear to benefit a few farmers. The fact is that every farmer here presently have developed irrigation systems at significant investment and it is neither practical nor feasible to completely readjust existing systems to utilize the water proposed to be wasted by Ranchers Exploration and Development.

Farmers here have to secure expensive water rights to be able to utilize their remaining underground water. Because of the declining table, we have been forced to conserve water and to develop more efficient methods of irrigation in order to survive.

The disruption, dewatering, and relocation of our underground water by Ranchers Exploration and Development as proposed will not be tolerated. Our protest to this fact is hereby registered.