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On August 12, 2010, the Mined Land Reclamation Board (MLRB) approved changes to the Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. The rules were reviewed by the Attorney General for consistency with statute and the state Constitution, the final rules were published by the Secretary of State, and the new rules become effective September 30, 2010. Electronic copies of the new rules will be available on the Division's website at <http://mining.state.co.us/> on September 30, or they can be purchased for \$5.00 at the division office (mailed for \$8.00).

Rule changes resulted from rulemaking conducted to implement changes to the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Act, which was amended by the passage of three bills in 2008: SB 08-228, SB 08-169 and HB 08-1161. The trio of laws established new rules to protect Colorado's groundwater during in-situ uranium mining, revised existing rules regarding the disclosure of additional information during prospecting activities and updated hard rock mining fees.

Among the key provisions of the new rules: All uranium mines are now Designated Mining Operations, requiring detailed environmental protection plans. In-situ leach uranium mine applications must protect groundwater to existing conditions or to state ground water standards. In-situ leach uranium mine applications must demonstrate that the proposed mining technology has been used at five other locations without harming groundwater quality. In-situ leach uranium mine applications must include detailed baseline hydrology information. In-situ leach uranium mine applicants cannot receive a permit if the applicant is in violation at another operation. Prospecting notices are now largely public information. Public comment is now allowed on prospecting notices. DRMS may now assess in-situ leach uranium mine applicants for extraordinary costs associated with permit reviews.

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) is charged with implementing the Mined Land Reclamation Act. As a result of the Rule changes, modifications to some forms used by the division were required. The new forms will be available after the October 13-14, 2010 Mined Land Reclamation Board Meeting and will be posted on the DRMS website at <http://mining.state.co.us/>

Additional information on the rulemaking can also be found at: <http://mining.state.co.us/>

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