

April 25, 2008

Statement Before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Public Hearing Regarding Regulations for Uranium Mining

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I am here as a private land and mineral owner and am representing my family's ownership interest in the surface and minerals of the Armstrong Ranch in Kenedy County, Texas.

The Armstrong Ranch has been operated as a cattle ranch since 1852. My family takes great pride in fulfilling its stewardship responsibilities and is working to instill the same ethic in our children.

I wish to express my objection to the comment regarding the requirement that an aquifer exemption be recorded on the "deed of record" in the County records. I see no reason to compel a private landowner to cloud their own title prior to any environmental damage having been documented.

There already exists a common law duty that a seller disclose this type of information in a sales contract or be liable for damages to the buyer if he does not. Information to the public will be available through records kept at the Texas Railroad Commission, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and in some cases, Groundwater Conservation Districts.

I request that you remove this passage in its entirety. If necessary, I request that you seek further input from the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and other well recognized private landowner groups.

My family welcomes and relies upon the protection offered by effective, science based regulations. We do not welcome unnecessary delays in the permitting process. I request that the TCEQ Commissioners and staff be mindful that delays, unsubstantiated by sound science, take from private property owners their right to develop their ownership interests in a reasonable manner.