



EARTHWORKS



# Earth Notes

February 8, 2012



## IN THIS ISSUE

[Next Steps for Rosemont Mine in Arizona](#)

[9 Months Later, Still No Rules to Prevent the Trade of Conflict Minerals](#)

[Texas Railroad Commission Hears from Landowners](#)

[New York has a lot to consider with draft SGEIS](#)

[Macy's dirty little secret exposed](#)

## Welcome to Earth Notes!

Dear [[First\_Name]],

In this edition of Earth Notes you will find updates on our latest campaigns and actions you took to further responsible oil and gas extraction and mineral development. This January we sent thousands of letters to our representatives urging them to do the right thing, and we're starting to see results.

Many of our updates are linked to blog posts and articles. We'd love to have you join the conversation on [EarthBlog](#) by leaving a question or comment.

All our best,  
The Earthworks Staff

## Next Steps for Rosemont Mine in Arizona



**Say NO to Dirty Gold!**



Sign the pledge to end dirty gold mining practices.

**Support EARTHWORKS**



**[Donate with confidence!](#)**

Better Business Bureau has given its *highest rating* to EARTHWORKS

**Recycle your cell phone!**



Cell phones contain toxic metals that can pollute the environment and threaten

Last month, we asked you write to the Forest Service and Army Corps to protect the scenic Santa Rita Mountains from mine waste dumping and an open-pit copper mine. Now that the comment periods are over it is time for both agencies to review and come to some decisions.

**The next step for the Forest Service** is to write a [Final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)](#), which will go out for public review and comment before a record of decision is signed.

However, many of the comments received and several of the cooperating agencies have asked that a supplemental Impact statement be written first. In fact the Forest Service has hinted that this may be a possibility. If a Supplemental EIS is written, there will need to be public review and comment on the supplement before the Final is written.

**The next step for the Army Corps** will be deciding whether to grant the [permit](#) or not. The Corps has no time limit and it may ask for more information before making a decision.

The Army Corps is clearly not bound by the 1872 Mining Law, so they have every right to deny the permit. If the permit is denied, it would be extremely difficult for the project to move forward!

[Get more info at [Save the Scenic Santa Ritas](#) and the [Arizona Mining Reform Coalition](#).]

## 9 Months Later, Still No Rules to Prevent the Trade of Conflict Minerals

In order to create greater transparency in the supply chain for consumer electronics the Dodd-Frank Act requires that companies disclose if they source "[conflict minerals](#)" from the Democratic Republic of Congo.



However, the Act needs rules for implementation and the Securities and Exchange Commissions (SEC), charged with creating the rules, has been dragging its feet, for almost nine months.

We asked you to demand these rules be released by the end of January, and our voices were heard.

While the rules still haven't been released we expect that they will be released in the first quarter of the year. Our next challenge will be ensuring that the rules are strong enough to protect the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and end the cash flow to the agents of war.

[Read [the blog post](#) at EARTHblog.]

## Texas Railroad Commission Hears from Landowners



The Texas Railroad Commission is considering creating rules to implement the [Mineral Interest Pooling Act](#) (MIPA), which forces landowners with contiguous land to pool their mineral rights.

We asked our friends and activist allies in Texas to attend the hearing and speak out on behalf of landowners across the state.

This was a huge success: defenders of Texans' property rights greatly outnumbered our opponents and, might I

human health.

When recycled responsibly, these metals can be put back into circulation, decreasing the need for new metal mining.

add, had far more compelling arguments in front of the Commission.

[\[Read our comments on MIPA here\]](#)

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## New York has a lot to consider with draft SGEIS

Thanks to your help, the public comment period on the draft guidelines for high-volume fracking in New York State (known as the dSGEIS) ended with a bang--40,000 comments, triple the number on the previous draft in 2009.

Now, the Department of Environmental Conservation must review them all before issuing a final draft (the last step before issuing permits), possibly by the end of 2012.

Earthworks and its allies are working to make sure that the Department of Environmental Conservation corrects flaws in the document that would leave communities and the environment vulnerable to the impacts of gas development and that a full analysis of health and socioeconomic issues are included; we're also advancing protective bills in the state legislature.



To learn more about efforts in New York, visit [www.cleanwaternotdirtydrilling.org](http://www.cleanwaternotdirtydrilling.org).

[\[Read more on EARTHblog.\]](#)

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## Macy's dirty little secret exposed

The past few months Macy's has been feeling relentless pressure to sign on to the Golden Rules for clean metals sourcing.

Macy's, one of only two major jewelry retailers to not sign the [Golden Rules](#), has been a major laggard when it comes to helping rid the jewelry industry's gold of child labor, labor violations, human rights abuses, and environmental destruction.

We partnered with Change.org to send over 15,000 petitions to Macy's and hundreds of people posted to Macy's Facebook page demanding they sign the Golden rules. Your actions forced Macy's to publically respond, but they still haven't taken action!

That is why we'll be continuing to [pressure Macy's this Valentines Day](#), and every day, until they step up and support the communities and environments threatened by dirty gold by signing the Golden Rules.

[\[Read more on EARTHblog.\]](#)

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