

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

**SEP 13 2011**

Mark and Kay Denniston  
72 Savage Loop  
Cañon City, CO 81212

Dear Mr. and Ms. Denniston:

Thank you for commenting on Cotter Corporation's 2011 Annual Financial Assurance Report. In your letter you raised several issues including the adequacy of the amount of financial assurance and the need to set high standards for cleanup.

As you know, the financial assurance is divided among license activities and remedial Action Plan (RAP) activities. While we are still negotiating RAP surety amounts with Cotter, we are comfortable that the amount accepted for the license activities is sufficient to address them. It appears that the RAP amounts still in negotiation are within levels that provide the necessary protection as well.

We agree that cleanup levels must be stringent and protective. While groundwater requirements are based on state standards, soil cleanup levels will be discussed with the public and subject to public comment before finalization.

And lastly, we understand that Cotter did post a notice in the Canon City Daily Record as required. However, I have not found a published notice to be the most effective tool for informing the public of upcoming items, and recommend that you continue to network with others that share your interests, and perhaps attend the monthly Citizens Advisory Group meetings, or monitor their and our activities on our web site at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/cotter/index.htm>.

We appreciate and encourage your interest in Cotter issues.

Sincerely,

Steve Tarlton, Manager  
Radiation Program

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