EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2/11/09
HB 319

Department of Environmental Quality

House Natural Resources
Wednesday, February 11, 2009
HB's 319, 429, 446, and 447

My name is Judy Hanson. I am the Administrator of the Permitting and Compliance Division at the Department of Environmental Quality. The Opencut program is in this division.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the multitude of Opencut bills that are before you this week and bills that might come from the Senate at a later date. It is important to hear about the challenges surrounding this program, the regulated industry, the neighbors and the citizens of the great State of Montana. We at DEQ appreciate the time and energy spent by all involved to attempt to bring solutions to these challenges.

We see this as a public policy issue. This is a great opportunity for the legislature to identify the kind of Opencut program that is appropriate for Montana through our statutes and to provide the necessary resources, staffing and funding, to accomplish this. It is then our responsibility to implement the laws.

We are here today as informational witness and are available for questions.