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Mineral Resources: Increased Attention Being Given to Cyanide Operations: Rced-91-145

By -

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 46 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the environmental consequences of mining operations using cyanide to extract gold and other minerals from federal lands, focusing on the: (1) hazards of cyanide operations to wildlife and the environment; and (2) efficacy, implementation, and enforcement of existing laws and regulations governing cyanide extraction operations. GAO found that: (1) as of January 1990, there were 119 active cyanide operations on federal land in Nevada, California, and Arizona, with 113 on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and 6 on lands managed by the Forest Service; (2) cyanide operators reported over 9,000 cyanide-related wildlife deaths, mostly involving migratory waterfowl, between 1984 and 1990; (3) cyanide operators typically used hazing techniques to scare wildlife away from operations, but they were not as effective over the long term as covering or fencing cyanide ponds; (4) examination of 31 inadvertent cyanide discharges from operations indicated minimal environmental damage; (5) BLM, the Forest Service, state agencies, and other federal agencies had adequate authority to regulate cyanide operations and enforce laws to protect wildlife and the...



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