

AMWUA Opposes HB2290

[HB2290: Waste Tires in Abandoned Mines](#)

HB2290 would permit waste tires to be used as fill material for an abandoned mine. This authority would expire on December 31, 2015. The bill also provides conforming language to add use in an abandoned mine to the list of permissible methods of waste tire disposal. The language also adds tire-filled abandoned mines to the definition of a “solid waste facility.”

Finally as session law, HB2290 creates a demonstration project for the use of waste tires in abandoned mines. The demonstration project would direct the State Mine Inspector to select up to five abandoned mines in locations throughout Arizona in which to use tires as fill. The Mine Inspector shall convene an abandoned mine reclamation working group consisting of:

- State Fire Marshall
- ADEQ Director
- ADWR Director
- Director of Mines and Mineral Resources
- A representative from a county waste tire collection facility
- At the Inspector’s Discretion, one or more representatives of the mining industry

The working group is charged with the evaluation of the use of tires as fill for mines and is charged with determining the public safety and water quality consequences of the underground presence of waste tires.

The bill establishes an Abandoned Mines Demonstration Project Trust Fund. At the end of the demonstration project monies in the fund transfer to the Abandoned Mine Safety Fund. The session law section is repealed on December 31, 2015.

AMWUA maintains strong concerns about the placement of pollutants and contaminants in close proximity to water sources that may be used for drinking water or other human consumption. This concern is not mitigated by the study commission, which is charged with evaluating the impacts for less than five years. The degradation of the tires and subsequent contamination of water supplies may continue well beyond that period.

Sponsor: Representative Jones.

Last Action: 1/25 HNR DP 5-3-0; next Rules