

Subject: EV/Lithium Batteries.

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From: Brian Eichelberger

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

I am not in favor of EV vehicles or mining for lithium.

The side effects include: use of large quantities of water and related pollution; potential increase in carbon dioxide emissions; production of large quantities of mineral waste; increased respiratory problems; alteration of the hydrological cycle. Obviously the economic interests at stake are enormous. The U.S. gets most of its lithium-ion batteries from China, and also sources large volumes from South Korea and Japan. But there is a huge, unregulated market for battery packs in the U.S. which poses a challenge to regulators and a threat to consumers. While the world does have enough lithium to power the electric vehicle revolution, it's less a question of quantity, and more a question of accessibility. Earth has approximately 88 million tonnes of lithium, but only one-quarter is economically viable to mine as reserves. The cost of an electric car battery can vary significantly based on the car's make and model, the capacity of the battery, and the type of battery used. Generally speaking though, you should expect to pay anywhere from approximately \$4,000 to \$20,000 to replace an electric car battery. Insurance for an electric car may cost more than insurance for a regular gas-powered car. An electric car's higher price tag and more complex equipment means it may cost more to repair or replace if it's in an accident. That can mean higher rates for policyholders who carry comprehensive and collision coverage. Is it worth it? No. You started out life with your new EV \$7,700 in the hole after buying the car, installing a charging station, and pocketing the federal tax credit. You will save about \$900 a year in fuel and maintenance costs. At this rate, it will take you eight to nine years to break even.

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