

**ABSTRACT- SEACREST
WATER QUALITY DATA COLLECTED FROM WATER WELLS
RATON BASIN, COLORADO**



The Raton Basin has an area of approximately 1300 square miles. It is underlain by the Raton and Vermejo coal bearing formations. The coals within these formations have been mined for over 100 years. Currently, the coal formations are being drilled to produce methane. The development of the coal-bed methane (CBM) resource has led to concern from local government and the public regarding potential impacts to groundwater resources.

To address possible concerns, a field survey was conducted in the region from January 9-17, 2002. During this survey, 100 private water sources were tested for a suite of inorganic and organic parameters. The majority of the drinking water in the rural areas of the region are derived from shallow to deep groundwater wells. The overall objective was to develop data which could be used to determine any potential impacts from the CBM development of the area. This report summarizes the findings of the surveys.