

Losing water, seeping gas

In southern Colorado's San Juan and Raton basins, drillers seeking methane gas first dewater coal formations to free up the gas. But some officials believe removing the water exacerbates methane seeps near the basins'

edges, creating hazards indoors and outdoors. The dewatering creates other problems. Some ranchers say it could be lowering the water table, threatening their ability to draw water for livestock and crops. And the

water pulled from the ground can be high in salts, which can harm plants, crops and water quality if it's discharged onto the ground, into streams or used for irrigation.

