

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

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| ACTION OFFICE: | OPA | | |
| AUTHOR: | Carol Kelly | | |
| AFFILIATION: | CA | | |
| ADDRESSEE: | Nils Diaz | | |
| SUBJECT: | Opposes dumpsite near Crownpoint, New Mexico | | |
| ACTION: | Appropriate | | |
| DISTRIBUTION: | Chairman | | |
| LETTER DATE: | 05/10/2005 | | |
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May 10, 2005

To: Dr. Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

From: Carol Kelly
6420 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, California 94609

Dear Dr. Diaz,

I am a student at a local Community College. For an assignment, I had to research nuclear waste disposal. It occurred to me that I might fit the criteria to provide space for a nuclear waste dumpsite. Let me list the reasons and we'll see if you agree: as I said, I'm a student and therefore constantly lacking funds for even the basic needs; with summer school approaching and no financial aid available, I'm feeling quite desperate; I don't own the property on which I live but I have a vacant parking space that I could lease; I live within a very short distance of two elementary schools; and last, but most important and I'm sure this will seal the deal, though I am not on anyone's Reservation list, I do have Native American ancestors.

I suppose you've figured out by now that the preceding paragraph was my small attempt at irony. This letter is really about expressing my concern over the choices of location for uranium mining, reactor sites and nuclear waste dumpsites. From what I've read, it seems that in choosing locations, the first prerequisite is that it be on or very near an Indian Reservation. I truly want to understand this thinking. I just don't know how anyone could think that because someone is Native American, it's all right to do something to these people that would be unthinkable if done to any other racial group in this country.

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CHAIRMAN REC'D

One particular case I would like to mention is the placement of an independent spent fuel storage site exactly next to the Mdewakanton Dakota Prairie Island homeland. True, it's not on the Reservation but it is so close that it is only a few hundred yards away from their homes and the community childcare center. What are you thinking when you license this kind of activity? What happened to the Minnesota legislature's mandate that the facility would be shut down unless a permanent storage site was found by 2004? I found on your website that the Prairie Island storage site is still listed as active.

For years I've been wondering what kind of weird science would come up with the idea of creating an energy industry that produced lethal waste that no one knew what to do with. While Internet surfing for information about the nuclear industry, I ran across more really weird science. I read extensively about in situ leach uranium mining. I really want to understand this. While all the *best* science is telling us that in about twenty years the entire planet will be dealing with diminished fresh water sources, you are licensing operations that are irreparably polluting our aquifers. While you're making all your little parts per million and parts per billion calculations, please keep in mind that it will be bad form to leave the next generation with the option of death by dehydration or death from ingestion of poisoned water.

In particular, I'm asking you please do not license Hydro Resources Inc. for the in situ leach uranium mine they are proposing for Crownpoint, New Mexico. Again, the site is not on Navajo land, however, the operation will be a mere one-half mile from the town of Crownpoint and the water wells that serve 15,000 people. Please don't allow this operation to go forward.

Your consideration in these matters will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Carol Kelly