

**From:** Shirley McNall <sjmcnall@yahoo.com>  
**To:** <NRCREP@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** 9/4/2007 5:53:37 PM  
**Subject:** Uranium Recovery GEIS

To Whom It May Concern:

I am responding to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Federal Register notice dated July 24, 2007 regarding the scope of the proposed Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("GEIS") for in situ leach ("ISL") uranium mining.

I write to oppose a GEIS.

The "Generic" connotation sends a chill up my spine because the 4 Corners Area has numerous old uranium mining sites that have contaminated ground water. A few examples of the ground water devastation that has happened in my neighborhood include the July 16, 1979 uranium tailings dam failure @ the United Nuclear Corporation uranium mill at Church Rock, NM which released 94MILLION GALLONS OF ACIDIC WASTEWATER AND 1,100 TONS OF RADIOACTIVE TAILINGS into the Rio Puerco River that flows through New Mexico !!!

And then there is the contamination of the Animas River from the breached tailing ponds and piles of uranium tailings of the Vanadium Corporation of America uranium mill built right on the bank of the Animas River in Durango Colorado. My family and I and thousands of people had no choice but to drink the water from the Animas River that was laced with uranium contamination. San Juan County has a very high cancer rate that we believe is related to our contaminated drinking water supply.

The Shiprock, NM uranium mill site that was operated 1954 to 1968 is located in the San Juan River drainage. The Federal Department of Energy has proposed active remediation to be completed by 2012 of the uranium, cadmium, radium, etc. plume that measures over 1.6 miles long and approx. .75 miles wide that is headed to the San Juan River.

Another example of existing groundwater contamination is in the Grants, NM area near the Homestake uranium mine where contaminated wastewater from the processing mill was stored in an UNLINED POND! 34 domestic water wells have been tested by DOE and New Mexico Environmental Dept. 33 of these wells have validated contamination and 21 of these wells are contaminated with elevated levels of uranium !!!

Our area of New Mexico has a long history of dead and dying people from uncontrolled uranium mining methods.

In Situ leaching guarantees direct contamination of ground water.

Potable water is precious and necessary for the survival of folks in the West.

The NRC should, at a minimum, extend the comment period and schedule public meetings in communities that will be affected by ISL mining.

**A GENERIC EIS IS IRRESPONSIBLE !! THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE IMPACTED BY URANIUM MINING MUST BE GIVEN FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO BE INFORMED AND TO GIVE COMMENT.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on this matter, and please keep me apprised of developments with regard to the GEIS.

Sincerely,  
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