

1. The proposed GEIS is industry's agenda, not the public's. It appears to be intended to LIMIT public participation in uranium ISL mining licensing decisions made by NRC.
2. ISL mining impacts are site-specific, and the communities in which those impacts will occur have varying environmental and social conditions. As one of our grass-roots friends said recently, "there is nothing generic about our people and lands."
3. A GEIS cannot address the impacts of uranium development on sacred sites and places. Mt. Taylor and its surroundings, for instance, have

unique religious and cultural significance for the Diné and Pueblo peoples. New uranium mining threatens Tsoodzil, in ways that are specific to the Native communities that use its water and forests for ceremonial and traditional purposes.

4. If NRC proceeds with the GEIS, it should include energy development from renewable resources (i.e., solar and wind power) as alternatives to uranium production for nuclear power plants.

The purpose of a "scoping meeting" is to give the public an opportunity to tell the federal agency what issues to address in an environmental impact statement. Therefore, you should feel free to raise virtually any issue with NRC that addresses your concerns about uranium mining. Here are some additional ideas:

5. The Navajo Nation has banned any form of uranium mining and processing in Navajo Country. NRC should respect that sovereign decision and declare that it will NOT approve another uranium license in Navajo Country.
6. Acoma Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo and the All Indian Pueblo Council have adopted resolutions opposing any new resource development, including uranium mining, which could negatively impact Pueblo sacred sites, lands and water resources. The NRC should respect the views of the Pueblos and declare that it will not license uranium facilities on Pueblo lands.
7. Dozens of communities in northwestern New Mexico are adversely affected by abandoned uranium mines that have not been cleaned up and by extensive groundwater contamination at uranium mills regulated by the NRC. Accordingly, NRC should not approve any additional uranium processing as long as these sites remain contaminated.
8. There is no basis to the notion that non-Indian communities in the Grants area fully support new uranium mining. Many residents of these communities have expressed concern about new mining. In public meetings, they have stated their lack of confidence in the NRC to adequately regulate new uranium processing facilities. They are particularly concerned about the lack of progress in restoring contaminated groundwater at the five licensed uranium mills in N.M.
9. Many people living in communities affected by past mining and processing believe their illnesses, poor health and premature deaths are in some way related to their exposures to uranium. NRC needs to help communities conduct health studies before approving new mining.

FROM: Teddy Nez, Resident of Red Water Pond Rd.  
I live between TPOO (2) abandoned uranium mine