URGEISCEmails

From: Anabel Dwyer [anabeldwyer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2008 11:35 AM
To: NRCREP Resource
Subject: Uranium Recovery GEIS

Do not approve the opening of any new uranium mines. The toxic legacy of our old uranium mines, the front end of the nuclear cycle, has not been addressed or properly studied. We do know that thousands of workers and communities in many parts of the world are suffering increased cancers, leukemias, and birth defects from the dangerous radiation that is poisoning the rivers and soil at the sites of old uranium mines (See for example, This is My Homeland. Stories of the effects of nuclear industries by the people of Serpent River First Nation and the north shore of Lake Huron).

We also know that uranium mining is directly linked to development, threat and use of nuclear weapons which can only and necessarily be eliminated as we move beyond the unsustainable nuclear system. For example, here in the Great Lakes Basin, the source of 95% of the fresh water for North America, we have successfully demanded an end to stationing and development of nuclear weapons and new nuclear power plants because of the grim realities of the serious dangers to our lives and ecosystem posed by the nuclear system. Both security and environmental quality can only be enhanced by nuclear disarmament in all its aspects. In reality this requires that we shift to readily available actually clean and truly renewable sources of energy, wind, solar, geothermal and that we restore our environment by cleaning up and monitoring the persistent toxic substances including those that are radioactive.

For example, The Nuclear Task Force of the International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality concluded the following in its Inventory of Radionuclides of the Great Lakes in 1998:

> "Various facilities used in the fuel cycle for nuclear energy are the primary human source of radionuclides in the Great Lakes basin. There are 11 nuclear power plants with 16 reactors in the U.S. portion and four nuclear power plants with 21 reactors in the Canadian portion of the basin, all of which emit radionuclides to the basin. Other large sources include a tritium removal plant at Darlington, uranium mines and their mill tailings that enter the Serpent River region, and uranium refining and conversion at Blind River and Port Hope in the Ontario portion of the basin. Also included are weapons facilities and auxiliary operations at Ashtabula, Ohio in the U.S. portion of the basin.
>
> Commercial, industrial, medical and research institutions also use radionuclides in the Great Lakes basin. While these sources use small quantities of radioactive materials, they are numerous and the total quantities may contribute significantly to the burden of radioactive materials in the environment.
>
> The Task Force identified tritium, carbon-14, iodine-129, isotopes of plutonium and radium-226 as radionuclides that merit separate studies and further reporting because of their patterns of use and discharge; their physical, chemical and biological properties; and the special monitoring needs of lakes."

New uranium mining must not be approved.

Anabel Dwyer

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