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NEWS RELEASE

September 25, 1979

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
CHURCH ROCK ACTION COMMITTEE  
NEW MEXICO HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
GALLUP INDIAN MEDICAL CENTER

On August 23, 1979, the Center for Disease Control team accompanied six Navajos from Church Rock, New Mexico to Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory for whole body counting. All six persons were found to have normal amounts of radioactivity. No detectable activity of uranium, thorium, or their daughter elements was found in any person. Twenty-four hour urine collections were then made for lead, cadmium, uranium, and thorium concentrations. None of these elements were detected. The detection limit for lead and for cadmium is 0.5 milligram/liter; the detection limit for uranium and for thorium is approximately 0.5 microgram/liter. The urine concentration of radium will be available in one month. In summary, urine tests and whole body counting of six Navajos from Church Rock revealed no measurable increase in radioactivity using the most sensitive techniques available. Testing of animals which have drunk water from the Rio Puerco is being conducted by the Indian Health Service which will release the results when available.

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