

Duisburg 24. Jan. 1998

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To:
Shirley Jackson, Chairwoman
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKING AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF



Dear Madam

I am alarmed to learn that the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recommended that Hydro Resources Inc. be allowed to build and operate three uranium mines and a uranium processing plant in close proximity to the Navajo communities of Church Rock and Crownpoint, New Mexico.

I strongly oppose these plans, due to the following reasons :

- Uranium mining, no matter by what method, is extremely liable to pollute air, land and waters. In the case of in situ leach mining, as proposed by Hydro Resources Inc. , the principal water source for Crownpoint and surrounding communities is especially in danger of long term contamination. A restoration of the contaminated groundwaters to their pre- mining level will be impossible.
- The extreme proximity to the communities of Church Rock and Crownpoint means a permanent threat to the health and security of their inhabitants. Radioactive material will have to be transported on bad roads close to houses and schools, while these communities don't have the resources to deal adequately with probable accidents involving mining, transporting and processing of radioactive material.
- Since there is enough uranium available to fuel existing plants for at least the next two decades, there is absolutely, no need for new uranium mines.
- Especially the Navajo people have been suffering severely from the impacts of uranium mining already, therefore they should not be subjected to the dangers and fears of more mining and processing.
- Since the proposed area is inhabited almost exclusively by members of the Navajo Nation, the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation should apply to the proposed mines and processing plant.

Thank you for your attention, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Regina Schlüpen
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