

**From:** Xavier Bell <xbell@pdx.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 8:37 PM  
**To:** Waldron, Ashley  
**Cc:** Sarah Carvill  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Comment on Disposal of Mine Waste EIS  
**Attachments:** Comment Letter.pdf; Comment Letter.docx

Attached is my comment letter referring to EIS titled:  
Disposal of Mine Waste at the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site in McKinley  
County, New Mexico

Thank you for your time!  
-Xavier Bell

(CC'd is my Professor of my NEPA course)

**Federal Register Notice:** 85FR72706  
**Comment Number:** 12

**Mail Envelope Properties** (CAHrhHe-mCjgsoHpOt3N1rzsG6Huk\_3t0KT3TKHgRvH4rxWV8A)

**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Comment on Disposal of Mine Waste EIS  
**Sent Date:** 3/19/2021 8:36:50 PM  
**Received Date:** 3/19/2021 8:37:17 PM  
**From:** Xavier Bell

**Created By:** xbell@pdx.edu

**Recipients:**

**Post Office:** mail.gmail.com

<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
MESSAGE	242	3/19/2021 8:37:17 PM
Comment Letter.pdf	52905	
Comment Letter.docx	29243	

**Options**  
**Priority:** Standard  
**Return Notification:** No  
**Reply Requested:** No  
**Sensitivity:** Normal  
**Expiration Date:**  
**Recipients Received:**

DISPOSAL WASTE COMMENT LETTER

3/15/2021

Ashley Waldron  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Disposal of Mine Waste at the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site in McKinley County, New Mexico  
11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852

Dear Ms. Ashley Waldron

My name is Xavier Bell. I am a University of Arizona graduate, and now, a student at Portland State. I have chosen to review the “Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Mine Waste at the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site in McKinley County, New Mexico”. I have a natural passion for living ecofriendly, and after progressively learning about EIS’s these past couple of months this is my attempt to successfully execute a comment letter.

From my understanding of your draft EIS, the purpose of this project is to correct actions from uranium mines in New Mexico that date all the way back to the 1950s. The proposed action of this project is to remove waste from a former Church Rock Uranium spill in New Mexico, in a safe and ecofriendly manner. I think you did a great job with this EIS. The purpose of this comment letter is to gain experience in commenting on draft EIS’s and to possibly give you a few of my thoughts. For this is my first time attempting a comment letter.

As I briefly overviewed the alternatives of this project, I had a few thoughts:

I found the short term affects to be well thought through. Considering the area, you plan on dumping in I found the motion to monitor and correct ground water is mindful yet necessary. My only question referring to this groundwater would be, do these ponds have a connection to any nearby water supplies that could lead to further species damage, or drinking water contamination? This could negatively impact the surrounding Navajo Nation.

Lastly, referring to the section of Air Quality Effects:

This are is seems to be under control with “Small” to “Moderate” effects during the peak year, but I do have an interest in air quality so here is a thought...

Another possible mitigation you may consider adding to Table 6-3-1 in the section of air quality could be to pre-prep the areas that will most likely cause the most dust (roads, construction areas etc.) what a water mist topping to potentially mitigate further sedimentation from going into the atmosphere.

XAVIER BELL  
3/15/21

DISPOSAL WASTE COMMENT LETTER

Thank you for your time. I hope you enjoyed and give thought to some of my concerns. I will enjoy following this project in the future. For fastest response you can reach me at [xbell@pdx.edu](mailto:xbell@pdx.edu) for any questions or responses.

Sincerely,

Xavier Bell  
Portland State University Student

DISPOSAL WASTE COMMENT LETTER

3/15/2021

Ashley Waldron  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Disposal of Mine Waste at the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site in McKinley County, New Mexico  
11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852

Dear Ms. Ashley Waldron

My name is Xavier Bell. I am a University of Arizona graduate, and now, a student at Portland State. I have chosen to review the “Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Mine Waste at the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site in McKinley County, New Mexico”. I have a natural passion for living ecofriendly, and after progressively learning about EIS’s these past couple of months this is my attempt to successfully execute a comment letter.

From my understanding of your draft EIS, the purpose of this project is to correct actions from uranium mines in New Mexico that date all the way back to the 1950s. The proposed action of this project is to remove waste from a former Church Rock Uranium spill in New Mexico, in a safe and ecofriendly manner. I think you did a great job with this EIS. The purpose of this comment letter is to gain experience in commenting on draft EIS’s and to possibly give you a few of my thoughts. For this is my first time attempting a comment letter.

As I briefly overviewed the alternatives of this project, I had a few thoughts:

I found the short term affects to be well thought through. Considering the area, you plan on dumping in I found the motion to monitor and correct ground water is mindful yet necessary. My only question referring to this groundwater would be, do these ponds have a connection to any nearby water supplies that could lead to further species damage, or drinking water contamination? This could negatively impact the surrounding Navajo Nation.

Lastly, referring to the section of Air Quality Effects:

This are is seems to be under control with “Small” to “Moderate” effects during the peak year, but I do have an interest in air quality so here is a thought...

Another possible mitigation you may consider adding to Table 6-3-1 in the section of air quality could be to pre-prepare the areas that will most likely cause the most dust (roads, construction areas etc.) what a water mist topping to potentially mitigate further sedimentation from going into the atmosphere.

XAVIER BELL  
3/15/21

DISPOSAL WASTE COMMENT LETTER

Thank you for your time. I hope you enjoyed and give thought to some of my concerns. I will enjoy following this project in the future. For fastest response you can reach me at [xbell@pdx.edu](mailto:xbell@pdx.edu) for any questions or responses.

Sincerely,

Xavier Bell  
Portland State University Student