

**From:** Deborah Cate <dfcate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2021 4:30 PM  
**To:** UNC-ChurchRockEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Protect the health, lands and water of the Navajo people

Dear NRC:

The Red Water Pond Road Community Association (RWPRCA) was founded in 2006 among residents living near the Northeast Churchrock Mine (NECRM), the Quivira Churchrock Mine, and the UNC uranium mill and mill tailings disposal facility. The Navajo have occupied the lands for at least 100 years, and have been exposed to toxic mine wastes since 1969. Since 2006, their group has advocated that uranium mine wastes be removed from their community to a licensed, offsite disposal facility to repair and restore indigenous lands and health.

Representatives of the Navajo Nation have appeared at countless public meetings and hearings sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) over the past 15 years to state their position that the wastes should be removed. Despite these pleas, USEPA and NRC both propose to move 1 million cubic yards of wastes at the NECR Mine to the top of the mill tailings pile, which is unlined and subject to potential effects of flash floods in the Pipeline Arroyo. So far, USEPA has no plan to remove the Quivira Mine wastes.

RWPRCA is sending a letter to NRC that restates the Navajo Nation's position and strongly recommends that they lead a multi-stakeholder effort to find suitable sites for permanent disposal of uranium mines outside of the Navajo Nation. I support their recommendation that the Health, Education and Human Services Committee support this position and work with the Office of the President and Vice President to protect the health, lands and water of the Navajo people for generations to come by consolidating mine wastes in a few safe, monitored locations outside of the Navajo Nation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Cate  
Philadelphia, PA

**Federal Register Notice:** 85FR72706  
**Comment Number:** 61

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