

From: Sonja Chan <sonjwal@gmail.com>
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To: UNC-ChurchRockEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] No dumping on Navajo reservation

Before the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at the University of New Mexico May 18, 2021

RED WATER POND ROAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SUMMARY OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO DISPOSE OF THE NORTHEAST CHURCHROCK MINE WASTES ON THE UNITED NUCLEAR CORP. (UNC) URANIUM MILL TAILINGS IMPOUNDMENT

•The Red Water Pond Road Community Association 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. We have occupied the lands for at least 100 years, and have been exposed to toxic mine wastes since 1969.

•Since 2006, our group has advocated that uranium mine wastes be removed from our community to a licensed, offsite disposal facility to repair and restore our lands and health.

•We 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 our 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.

•Recently, our position was supported by President Nez and Vice President Lizer in a letter to NRC dated April 12, 2021. They stated, “the Navajo Nation remains steadfast in its position that all NECR radioactive mine waste registering above USEPA’s action level should be removed from the community.”

•RWPRCA is sending a letter to NRC that restates our position and strongly recommends that the Navajo Nation lead a multi-stakeholder effort to find suitable sites for permanent disposal of uranium mines outside of the Navajo Nation.

•Therefore, we recommend 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.

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