

From: Kevin Kamps <kevin@beyondnuclear.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 11:42 PM
To: UNC-ChurchRockEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Public comments by Beyond Nuclear, Re: Docket ID NRC-2019-0026, Waste Consolidation Draft Environmental Impact Statement [License No. NUREG-2243]

Submitted via email to: <UNC-ChurchRockEIS@nrc.gov>

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff

Re: Docket ID NRC-2019--0026

May 27, 2021

Dear Mr. Tappert,

On behalf of our members and supporters across the country, Beyond Nuclear wishes to express its wholehearted support for the Red Water Pond Road Community Association's "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" ("Summary"), presented before the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council at the University of New Mexico on May 18, 2021.

That "Summary" states the following:

- *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. 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.*

Likewise, we would like to express our complete support for the May 10, 2021 "Re: Docket ID NRC-2019--0026, Red Water Pond Road Community Association Preliminary Comments on Waste Consolidation Draft Environmental Impact Statement [License No. NUREG-2243]," addressed to you. For reference, these comments are posted online here:

<http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/356082/28439256/1621523899290/RWPRCA+Preliminary+DEIS+Comments+SIGNED.pdf?token=nJm%2FjEsZUXP91NkevJcvSL5AbYc%3D>

In order to fulfill the Biden administration's oft stated commitments to Environmental Justice principles, as well as to honor all legally binding treaties -- the highest law of the land, equal in stature to the U.S. Constitution itself -- and to respect sovereign government to sovereign government relations between the United States of America and the Navajo Nation, we urge you, on behalf of our members and supporters across the country, to give the Red Water Pond Road

Community Association's, as well as the Navajo Nation's, comments and wishes, the fullest consideration, respect, and deference to which they are due and entitled.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kay Drey
President
Board of Directors
Beyond Nuclear
St. Louis, MO

and

Kevin Kamps
Radioactive Waste Specialist
Beyond Nuclear
7304 Carroll Avenue, #182
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912
Cell: (240) 462-3216
kevin@beyondnuclear.org

www.beyondnuclear.org

Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abolish both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.

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