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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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for the Disposal of Mine Waste at the  
United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE DISPOSAL  
OF MINE WASTE AT THE UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION MILL  
SITE

+ + + + +

PRESENTATION AT THE  
NAVAJO NATION PINEDALE CHAPTER REGULAR MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY,

OCTOBER 13, 2021

+ + + + +

The presentation convened via  
Teleconference, at 12:00 p.m. MDT.

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(1:57 p.m.)

MS. TSOSIE: At this time, we'll give it to Christine. Christine are you still online? Go ahead and take the floor.

PARTICIPANT: Chapter President.

MS. TSOSIE: Christine.

MS. WALDRON: Hi, Christine will be right back. She just stepped away for a second.

MS. PINEDA: Hi, here I am. Can you hear me?

MS. TSOSIE: Go ahead. Yes.

MS. PINEDA: Okay. Sorry about that. So, to introduce myself, my name is Christine Pineda. And I work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC. And that's, just to clarify, that's a federal government agency and we are currently reviewing United

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Nuclear Corporation's proposal to place uranium mine waste from the Northeast Church Rock Mine, onto the United Nuclear Corporation Mill Site.

And so, we just would like to thank you for letting us join the meeting and speak to you today about our draft environmental impact statement for this project.

In a few minutes I'll turn it over to Ashley Waldron. She is the Lead Project Manager for the environmental impact statement. And she will do a presentation, speak to you about our environmental impact statement.

In addition, we have an interpreter on the line for those of you who may have trouble understanding, if English is not your first language. Joanna Manygoats is on the line with us, and she will, she can do translations if there's something that Ashley is speaking about, that you would like to have repeated in Navajo. Just jump in and let us know, and we can have Joanna translate.

MS. TSOSIE: Christine, we do like to have it translated in Navajo.

MS. PINEDA: Okay. So, then for each slide, we would, Ashley would speak about that slide, and then we would have Joanna translate it. Is that

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what you would like?

MS. TSOSIE: We don't have the slides.

(Off the microphone comments.)

MS. TSOSIE: Oh, yes. Go ahead, yes.

MS. PINEDA: Okay. Also, I just want to make you aware that we, the NRC is transcribing this portion of your meeting, so that we can capture any questions or comments that you have for the NRC. We just want to be able to capture those in writing. So, we have a person on the line who is transcribing just this portion of the meeting.

And so, before I turn it to Ashley, I know that there are also other people from the Department of Energy, and from the Environmental Protection Agency on the line, as well as other NRC staff, in case you have questions and, you know, so that we have enough people to try to answer your questions as best we can.

So, I will, think now, ask those people to identify themselves and which agency they work for.

So, first, I've introduced Ashley, but she might want to just introduce herself and then pass it, and then the next person can jump in.

MS. WALDRON: Hi, can you hear me okay?

MS. TSOSIE: Yes.

MS. PINEDA: Yes.

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MS. WALDRON: Okay, great, thank you. Good afternoon. Ashley Waldron, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and I'll come back on after the introductions and go through the presentation as Christine stated.

So, I guess, I'll turn this over to anyone else on the line from NRC, and then we can go through the other federal agencies.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, this is James Smith. I'm the Project Manager for the Safety Review of the UNC request.

MR. LAPLANTE: Hi, this is Patrick LaPlante. I'm one of the principal investigators for developing the EIS on the contractor side, for NRC.

MS. MINOR: Hello, this is Amy Minor. I am also a contractor for the NRC, helping Pat to prepare the environmental impact statement.

MS. JACOBS: If there's no one else from NRC, can you hear me? This is Sara Jacobs.

MS. PINEDA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. JACOBS: Okay, great. My name is Sara Jacobs, and I'm with the Environmental Protection Agency out of EPA Region 9 in San Francisco. And I'm the Project Manager for the Northeast Church Rock Mine site cleanup. Thank you, for the opportunity to join

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you.

MS. TSOSIE: Thank you.

MR. KUNTZ: Hello --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. APPLGATE: My name is Nathaniel Applegate -- oh, go ahead.

MR. KUNTZ: Hello, this is Greg Kuntz. I am with the Department of Energy. I am a public participation and outreach specialist.

(Off the microphone comments.)

MR. APPLGATE: Hello, this is Nathaniel Applegate with the USEPA Region 6 out of Dallas, Texas. I'm a Remedial Project Manager, and I helped them do some work on the UNC Mill site.

(Off the microphone comments.)

MS. PINEDA: Is someone speaking now?

MS. TSOSIE: We can't hear anybody over here.

MS. PINEDA: Okay.

MS. TSOSIE: That might (inaudible) participation.

MS. PINEDA: Okay, I also just want to note that Lee Anna Martinez from the Navajo Nation EPA is also on the line. And I think that's it. If there's anyone else, who wants to introduce themselves, go

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ahead. And then, Ashley can begin her presentation.

PARTICIPANT: Okay, great. Well, as of this morning, I spoke to the (inaudible).

MS. PINEDA: Hello, hello. I think someone is speaking in the background and isn't on mute or something. Is somebody --

MS. TOM: Can you hear me?

MS. PINEDA: Yes, can you hear me?

MS. TOM: Yes, I can hear you now. I'm Priscilla Tom. I'm with CIC for Eastern, for the, Eastern Region with USEPA Region 9. Thank you.

(Off the microphone comments.)

PARTICIPANT: I think, somebody, yes, somebody is speaking, but they're not muted. So, I was confused right there.

MS. DAYE: Okay. Christine, you know what, we're, we could hear some of the introductions, again, this is Clara Daye, the Chapter One, Vice-President. We could hear some of the introductions, but we couldn't really tell.

So, maybe what we can do is whoever is on this teleconference maybe they can, maybe email their names to Titus Nez, and so that we can put your name on our record, on our agenda, our minutes. So that it'll be an official document that we're doing.

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So, maybe Christine, we'll just have you start the presentation, or maybe whoever is going to be doing the presentation, maybe just go ahead and start. And we really appreciate everyone that is on this teleconference. Thank you.

MS. WALDRON: Okay, great. I'll -- I think I'll start now. Again, this is Ashley Waldron, and I'm going to give the presentation today. Hopefully, you have a copy of the slides in front of you. And I'll try to go through them and let you know which number I'm on, as I'm going through the information.

MS. PINEDA: And Ashley.

THE WITNESS: Yeah.

MS. PINEDA: Just a reminder that we, they want Joanna to translate. So, maybe after one or two slides, you can let her to jump in, okay.

MS. WALDRON: Yeah, okay. Yep, I heard that. All right, great.

So, I'm on Slide 2 now. So, these are the main topics I'll be covering through the presentation.

So, I'm going to talk about the License Amendment Application that was submitted by United Nuclear Corporation that's currently under review by the NRC.

I'm going to discuss NRC's role and review

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process, and then I'll talk about the NRC's environmental review results, which are captured in our environmental impact statement.

And then I'm going to talk about resources you can find through our website. And then also, ways you can comment on our draft environmental impact statement, which is out for public comments right now. And then at the end, we'll take any questions and hopefully give you some answers.

So, I think with that, I'll stop and let Joanna go ahead and provide the translation now.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. WALDRON: Joanna, are you on the line?

MS. MANYGOATS: I am on the line. Can you hear me?

MS. WALDRON: Thank you. Yes, we can.

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you, Joanna.

MS. MANYGOATS: You're welcome.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. So, moving on to Slide 3. So, we're reviewing, the NRC is reviewing a license amendment request in which United Nuclear Corporation has requested that the NRC grant an

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amendment to its current NRC license, that would allow it to bring mine waste from the Northeast Church Rock mine, onto the adjacent mill site, using a design that was previously approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NRC is evaluating whether the proposal can be done safely, and how the environment would be affected. If the amendment is approved, it will allow the transfer of 1,000,000 cubic yards of mine waste from the Northeast Church Rock Mine and they would place that waste on an existing mill tailings impoundment for permanent disposal.

Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead. Ashley, back to you.

MS. DAYE: I have a question. Are we allowed to ask questions in reference to this, or do we hold our questions until at the end?

MS. WALDRON: We're open to however you'd like to do it. So, if you want to ask your question now, please go ahead.

MS. DAYE: Okay. I'm going to ask the question in Navajo, and then it can be interpreted into

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English.

MS. WALDRON: Sure.

MS. DAYE: Okay.

MS. WALDRON: Please go ahead.

MS. DAYE: Okay. This is the Vice-President of our Chapter, Pinedale.

(Native language spoken.)

(Translated into English by Interpreter)

MS. MANYGOATS: I am the Vice Chairman of the chapter, and I have a question. Is this mine that was mined back in the past, producing the waste during the operation? Is this waste being moved to another location on the site, or in the general area of the mining?

Go ahead.

MS. WALDRON: Yeah. Yes, thank you, Joanna. Yes. So, I heard a couple of things. So, yes, this was a mine that was operated in the past.

And when that waste was mined, it was sent across the street for processing. And so, yes, it was and EPA can jump in too. Sara, I don't know if you want to add to the history at the mine.

MS. JACOBS: Yes.

MS. WALDRON: You could probably speak to that more fully than I can.

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MS. MANYGOATS: Hang on, let me translate that. Wait, wait for --

MS. JACOBS: Sure.

MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Sara, if you're ready.

MS. JACOBS: Hi, again. This is Sara Jacobs, and I am the Project Manager for the Northeast Church Rock Mine site. And like, Ashley said, historically in the 1960s/1970s when they were doing the mining, they dug -- and I'm sure maybe some of you even have worked in the mines who are there at the Chapter meeting and know more about it than I do.

But they dug up the waste ore that was down over a 1,000 feet below ground surface. It was very deep, and they dug that and sent it over to the mill site across the street, the UNC Mill site, for processing, like Ashley said.

So, the waste from the mill site is buried there at the UNC Mill, and then there's waste rock.

So, this was extra rock that was not as, didn't have as much uranium in it, that was just left at the mine.

And so, what we're going to do is, the proposal, the NRC proposed license is to bring that

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rock that is sitting at the mine site and co-dispose that with the mill waste on top of the mill waste at the mill site. Does that help?

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you, Ashley.

MS. JACKSON: I have a question or a comment. Can you hear me?

MS. WALDRON: Sure, please go ahead.

MS. JACKSON: This is Sarah Jackson, I have a question. Is this presentation working to seek a license to remove the mine waste? And you're trying to get that license or what is this? I kind of don't understand.

MS. WALDRON: Yeah, so I'm going to talk about that more in the next few slides. So, maybe if I keep going a little bit, maybe we can go through the next few slides, and some of that might become more clear.

MS. JACKSON: Okay.

MS. WALDRON: How does that sound?

MS. JACKSON: Thank you.

MS. PINEDA: Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Yes.

MS. PINEDA: This is Christine. Sarah,

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I just wanted to like make sure you do understand. On your agenda, it says that we are, that I am from the United Nuclear Corporation, but I just want to make sure you understand that we are from the federal government. We're from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

And we, we're the ones that issue the licenses, you know, and so United Nuclear Corporation is the company that owns that mill site, and the NRC regulates them. So, I just want to make sure that you know who we are, you know, related to that.

MS. JACKSON: Okay.

MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you.

Okay, so, I'm on Slide 4 now. At the top, says, NRC's role.

So, just a few things I want to point out with respect to the NRC's role in this license amendment request. So, like Christine mentioned, United Nuclear has a current license with the NRC, and they're seeking to amend that license, to bring that mine waste over to the mill site.

And we have not made a decision yet. And

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I'm going to talk about when we expect to make that decision, on the next slide. But, so, the NRC only has the authority at the mill site. We don't have authority over the Northeast Church Rock Mine. That's with USEPA Region 9. They have the lead for the cleanup at that site.

So, we were not involved in the decisions regarding the mine site cleanup, so, the location. So, we're literally just evaluating whether this proposal can be done safely and how the environment would be impacted.

And I think with that, I'll turn it back over to Joanna.

MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you, Ashley.

MS. DAYE: Okay. This is Clara Daye, again. I just wanted to make a little comment in reference to this. So, in the beginning, my question was the waste is to be removed, you know, is it to be removed generally in the same site? So, now, what my understanding, what I'm hearing is that the waste is just going to be, it's just going to be located across the street, basically. I think that's what we're hearing.

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And to my understanding, I know that the Navajo Nation as a whole, and then also there is a group -- how long has it been that that group saw uranium --

(Native language spoken.)

MS. DAYE: -- anyway there is a group, I can't remember the name of that little organization that were opposing it.

So, it appears, I've heard in the past, that the Navajo Nation, yes, as a whole were in disagreement to having the waste to be transferred, to be transferred across the street, I think is what I'm hearing. But that's just a comment. Thank you.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. This is Ashley, again. I think I'll go to the next slide, if that's okay, Slide 5 which talks about NRC's review process.

So, NRC is performing both an environmental review, and a safety review for this licensing action. And we documented our safety findings in a Safety Evaluation Report. And that report was issued in September of 2020.

And that evaluation looked at whether the action would meet NRC's requirements. And this document is publicly available, and I'll talk about, later on in the presentation, about how you can access

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the report.

And then also, we're preparing an environmental impact statement, which I've mentioned earlier, that discloses the environmental impacts of the action, or what it would have on the environment.

So, those findings are documented in what we call an EIS. You'll see that acronym, which is environmental impact statement, and the document is out for public comments until November 1st, so, the end of this month.

And so, NRC will evaluate all public comments received on the draft EIS, and consider modifying the EIS before issuing a final report in May of next year. A comment response summary will be included as an appendix to that final EIS, and that will include all comments received on our draft report during the comment period.

And then finally, NRC will issue its licensing decision, so, whether we approve or deny the license amendment request. And that will, that decision will be made in June of 2022.

Okay, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley.

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MS. WALDRON: Thank you.

MS. MANYGOATS: You're welcome.

MS. WALDRON: I'm hearing a little -- does somebody have a question?

PARTICIPANT: No, we're just talking about what you just said.

MS. WALDRON: Sure.

PARTICIPANT: We're talking about what you talked about. Go ahead.

MS. TSOSIE: Go ahead.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. Thank you. So, I'm moving on to Slide 6, environmental impact statement.

So, this slide shows basically how the EIS is organized and a breakdown of each of the chapters.

And I think I mentioned previously, I'll talk about how you can access the document later. That's what we're taking public comments on.

So, Chapter 1 describes the background, the NRC's process, what the EIS looks at in detail, and what it didn't look at, and why. Those are considered like issues outside the scope of the EIS.

Chapter 2 discusses what United Nuclear Corporation is proposing to do. And then the alternatives to the proposed action. And this for purposes of comparison of the impact. So, the action

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before the NRC, like we mentioned is to grant or deny a license amendment request. We do not have the authority to select a different alternative for the waste.

Chapter 3 looks at the current environmental conditions at the site, such as air, water. And then Chapter 4 looks at the impact that this action would have on those environmental resources.

Chapter 5 looks at something we call cumulative impacts. It looks at past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in that area, that could contribute to impacts when added to the proposed action.

So, Chapter 6 discusses what mitigation measures United Nuclear Corporation has proposed in its license application. It also discusses mitigation measures identified by the NRC. And finally, it discusses mitigation measures that have been identified by Navajo communities and its government.

And then lastly, Appendix A is the consultation correspondence or any letters that have gone back and forth from the NRC to other agencies.

And then finally there's a list of references at the end of each chapter.

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Okay, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you.

MS. PINEDA: Hi, Ashley. This is  
Christine, I'm just going to --

MS. WALDRON: Okay.

MS. PINEDA: -- jump in real quick and  
just, I just want to let everyone know that in August,  
Navajo Nation EPA staff dropped off copies, paper  
copies of the draft environmental impact statement.

And also, paper copies of the NRC staff safety report,  
and also, paper copies of this blue booklet, which is  
a summary of our draft environmental impact statement.

And we dropped those off in August, and  
with some, the person that was here at, was there at  
the time, I believe that was the accountant, Laverne.

So, hopefully you have, some or all of you, have seen  
those copies and if not, they must be there at the  
chapter waiting for you. So, just wanted to make sure  
you know about that.

MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley.

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MS. WALDRON: Okay, thank you.

So, the next slide is Slide 7, this is showing a map of the proposed project location. So, the proposed project is located about 17 miles northeast of Gallup, New Mexico. And the former Northeast Church Rock Mine is located on Navajo trust land. That's the area in yellow that says, NECR mine waste removal area.

And then the adjacent mill site is off of the Navajo Nation, on privately owned land, by United Nuclear Corporation. And that is like the shaded area across the road. You'll see Route 566 that runs in between the two sites, the mine and the mill.

So, the NECR mine waste removal area is where the waste will be removed from. And then it will be transferred and placed on the proposed disposal site, which is that shaded area.

Joanna --

MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Are you done?

MS. WALDRON: Yes, please go ahead.

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley, please.

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MS. WALDRON: Thank you, and maybe now is a good time to stop and see if there are any questions.

MS. DAYE: I have a, well the little red, the little red triangles. Is that where all the homes were, but they're not there anymore. Correct?

MS. WALDRON: There -- yes, there are currently home sites there. And Sara do you want to speak to that?

MS. DAYE: Are they relocated? I know some of them relocated, but are there still some that are still living in that area?

MS. WALDRON: Yes, that's my understanding, but Sara could speak to that better than I could.

MS. JACOBS: Yes. So, some residents that are living in that area, right adjacent to the mine, so that, you know, they'd be disrupted during the long-term construction there. They have been offered alternative housing options.

And you're right, some people have already chosen to move and been provided housing. And other people don't want to move, and other people have requested to move, but haven't. We haven't yet provided options for them. So, it's a mix.

PARTICIPANT: Okay, so Ashley, Ashley you

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mentioned private land, who's the person that owns it?

MS. WALDRON: It's United Nuclear Corporation. They're the ones that own that private land.

PARTICIPANT: Mixed, or inside the red, inside the red, the lines?

MS. WALDRON: So, it's the, they own the land on the UNC Mill site which is that shaded area, where it says, proposed disposal site.

PARTICIPANT: Yes, okay.

MS. WALDRON: Yes, including that Jetty area, there. So, everything like east of 566, that's the area on that side of 566 is what they own.

PARTICIPANT: Okay.

MS. WALDRON: All right, I'll move on then.

Okay. So, I'm on Slide 8 which says, UNC Mill site history. So, I've mentioned previously, there have been past milling operations. And that produced waste materials and we call those tailings.

And they are stored on site, there at the mill site in a repository.

So, you may hear this referred to as the tailings impoundment. Those, that's the waste that was produced during operations. There was also a 1979

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tailings impoundment dam failure, that some of you may be aware of, releasing 94 million gallons of mill tailings liquids into the Pipeline Arroyo.

It is important to note, that since that spill, the conditions at the site are not the same.

There's no longer liquid tailings, a liquid tailings dam at the site. So, now the tailings sit in that repository. And then there are also two evaporation ponds that are still being used for on-going groundwater cleanup activities at the site.

And if you go back to the map, that's those two blue boxes in the shaded area. Those are the two evaporation ponds that are still being used.

Okay, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay, thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead. Ashley, back to you.

MS. WALDRON: Okay, thank you.

Moving on to Slide 9, that is the proposed action. So, now, I'm going to talk about more of the details of what United Nuclear Corporation is proposing to do. We also call this the proposed action in the environmental impact statement. And the details can be found in Chapter 2 of the EIS.

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So, the EIS evaluates the impacts of the proposed action. And the proposed action is to amend the UNC license to allow the transfer and the disposal of 1,000,000 cubic yards of mine waste, and place that on top of the existing tailings impoundment at the mill site.

We talked a little bit about this earlier.

The waste consists of soil, waste rock, mine debris, and vegetation. The waste is being proposed to be moved by truck, across Highway 566. After the waste is placed on top of the mill tailings impoundment, it will be covered. And that cover material would be obtained from four borrow areas.

Those are also located on the map, the north borrow, the south borrow, east and west borrow.

And then the Pipeline Arroyo is also proposed to be stabilized using a riprap chute to replace the current rock jetty that's failing. So, they're going to make improvements to the Pipeline Arroyo.

And just, I want to note real quick, we evaluated the stabilization plan for the Pipeline Arroyo as part of the safety review. So, those findings can be found in the safety evaluation report that we mentioned earlier.

Okay, Joanna, I'll turn it back to you.

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MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, back to you, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you. Okay, so moving on to Slide 10, which talks about the alternatives.

So, we've talked about the proposed action. And under the proposed action, we looked at the environmental impact of if NRC approves the license.

So, the alternative of no action is NRC would not approve, or deny, the license amendment request. And therefore, UNC would not be allowed to dispose of the waste at the mill site. This evaluation assumes that the waste would remain in place for approximately ten years before the EPA selects another remedy.

And then, we also looked at something called secondary alternatives, which were essentially the same as the proposed action, but included modifications to certain activities.

So, the first one includes a modification of how the waste would be transferred. So, it wouldn't be, it wouldn't come over by truck, it would be, it would come over by a covered conveyor system.

And then the second, the second secondary

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alternative includes a modification where the cover material would be sourced from the Jetty area, rather than from the four borrow areas. And information on the alternatives, can be found in Chapter 2 of our draft environmental impact statement.

Okay, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS:

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. I'll just --

MS. MANYGOATS: Oh, I'm sorry --

MS. WALDRON: -- stop here. Is there any questions? Go ahead.

MS. MANYGOATS: I'm sorry. I forgot the Chapter 2 in your EIS.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, I'm sorry.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Yes.

MS. WALDRON: I'll just stop and see if there are any questions before we move on?

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. Hearing none, I think I'll move on then.

So, I'm on Slide 11. It says current site

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environment at the top of the slide. I think I briefly touched on most of these when we talked about the map, or project location.

But the mill, the mill is located on privately owned land, owned by United Nuclear Corporation. The mine site is located on Navajo trust land. New Mexico Highway 566 is a two-lane highway that provides primary access to the site.

There are approximately 34 occupied home sites within two miles of the proposed project, and also mentioned Pipeline Arroyo that is present at the site as a dry stream that fills with water after rain.

More information on the current site environment can be found in Chapter 3 of our draft EIS.

Okay, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you. Okay. So, moving on to Slide 12 which talks about the impact evaluation.

So, the impacts are discussed in Chapter 4 of our draft EIS. And we've evaluated the impacts for three stages of the proposed project. So, the construction phase looks at surface disturbing

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activities which includes excavation.

The second phase looks at the transfer.

So, that is the loading and the transport of the waste from the mine to the mill site.

And then the third phase is the closure which is reclamation and revegetation of the disturbed areas including what will be placed on top of the mine waste which is called an ET cover.

Back to you, Joanna.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay. Back to you, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Yes.

MS. WALDRON: So, moving on to Slide 13.

This shows the results of the NRC's environmental review findings. And so, I mentioned we looked at a variety of different environmental resource areas.

So, those are in the column on the left-hand side, and then each one of those resource areas is assigned an impact evaluation.

So, the impact levels range from small, to moderate, to large, and the definition of each of those impact levels are described in Chapter 4.

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And so, for some of the resource areas, you'll see that there's a range of impacts, for example, from small to moderate. And this would mean that for particular phases, as I mentioned in the last slide, the construction, transfer, or closure. There could be small impacts during construction activities but then we could see moderate impacts during transfer.

And then, you could also have certain aspects of that resource area that can have different impact levels. For example, ecology and air quality, as shown on the slide here.

And so, it's important to note that these slides are showing the impacts of what the proposed license amendment itself would have. The EIS also addresses impacts of historic events under the cumulative impact section.

Okay, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you. So, moving on to Slide 14, this just shows the remaining, excuse me, resource areas and their impact evaluation. And I'm going to talk about some of the resource area impacts in the next two slides.

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MS. MANYGOATS: Okay.

MS. WALDRON: Any questions before we move on?

Okay. So, I'm on Slide 15 which discusses the transportation impacts. So, this talks about the transportation impacts of the proposed actions.

So, if GE were to get, I'm sorry, United Nuclear Corporation, were to get an approval from the NRC, there would be an increased traffic at the site during construction near the haul road crossing and that is expected to increase by 68 percent.

They would make approximately 280 truck trips per day or 40 trips per hour moving the waste across from the mine to the mill.

There would be road closures. They would be limited to 15 minutes or less, and United Nuclear Corporation is proposing to install a temporary traffic light system at the Highway 566 crossing.

Okay, Joanna, back to you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Yes.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. So, moving on to Slide 16. That's labeled noise impacts. So, impacts

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would occur from the use of construction equipment and as well as from excavation activities.

The increased traffic would also contribute to noise levels and the closest noise receptors are the residents closest to the site in the Red Water Pond Road community.

Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead. Back to you, Ashley.

MS. WALDRON: Thank you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Yes.

MS. WALDRON: Okay. So, moving on to Slide 17, which talks about surface water and ground water impacts.

So, the primary surface water feature at the proposed project is the Pipeline Arroyo which I mentioned earlier, which is a tributary to the Puerco River.

Impacts on surface waters may result from erosion runoff, spills, and leaks of fuels or lubricants, and stormwater runoff. Those would be mitigated through the development and implementation of a stormwater spill prevention plan.

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And then part of the proposed action, which I also mentioned earlier, includes the stabilization work in the Pipeline Arroyo to address concerns about potential for undercutting near the existing impoundment, as well as improvements to stormwater drainage at the impoundment.

Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, back to you, Ashley.

MS. PINEDA: Hi, yes. I believe, Ashley had to step away for a minute. This is Christine Pineda. So, I will continue with the next slide, which is Slide 18. It's air quality impacts.

So, there would be impacts to air quality from activities that would generate dust, is I believe would be the primary impact, and that would be dust from vehicles traveling on the dirt roads between the mine site and the mill site.

So, after the excavation of the mine waste, then the vehicles would travel across 566 and then onto the mill site.

Also, there is the possibility that wind would also contribute to dust where there are disturbed

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areas.

And in addition, there would be typical emissions, air emissions that come from the use of heavy equipment and things like trucks. So, you know, with engines so that just the typical construction type air emissions.

So, to control the dust that would be generated, United Nuclear Corporation has proposed a number of measures including keeping, limiting the speed limits to 20 miles per hour, using dust suppression by spraying water on the haul roads and on excavation areas, and also in areas where soils and waste would be stockpiled, and also covering stockpiles so that the dust could not become airborne.

So, Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay. Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead, Christine.

MS. PINEDA: Okay. For the next slide is Slide 19, and that one is titled historic and cultural resources.

And this is the, looking at the impacts that could happen to sites, cultural sites and they might be sites that have artifacts or maybe the remnants of a living, a place where families lived, and or the

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one case they are pictographs.

So, within the limits of disturbance, which means within the area of the mine site and the mill site where the soils would be excavated and there would be truck traffic and all other kinds of activities, five of these sites were identified that are what we call eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

And that's a list that is maintained under the National Historic Preservation Act and so, there's five sites that are eligible to be listed.

And the NRC is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Navajo Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office, as well as United Nuclear Corporation, to develop a document that will ensure that those five sites that are in that area will not be, that they would be appropriately protected or avoided when the activities, when the cleanup activities are going on.

And this document is called a programmatic agreement and so, we are working on that document and it will be published also for public comment this fall.

And once we all agree on the procedures that are needed to keep the, to protect the resources then, and we

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receive public comments on that document, we will then publish the final programmatic agreement.

So, that is what is being explained on this slide, Slide 19.

Joanna?

MS. MANYGOATS: Thank you.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you, Christine.

MS. PINEDA: Okay, the next slide is Slide 20. And this is titled, excuse me, information resources and this just has the links to the draft environmental impact statement.

So, if you happen to have this slide electronically you can click on the link. And if you do not have it electronically, hopefully you have the paper copy of the draft EIS that was dropped off in August there at the Chapter House for, unless you have distributed those.

The next one is the reader's guide and that's the blue booklet that I was talking about earlier. It's kind of a summary of the EIS. It's a much shorter to read and contains the main points of the EIS and a number of figures and things.

And then the last one is a link that goes to our website for the project where there's a lot more

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information about the overall schedule of the project.

And then also, from there you can go to our public meetings' page where there's a lot of historic or information from the past year where we've had our public meetings, and we've done radio broadcasts and things like that, and a lot of that stuff is available on that web page.

Oh, Joanna?

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Go ahead. Back to you, Christine.

MS. PINEDA: Thank you. Next slide is Slide 21, and it says submit comments on draft EIS by November 1st, 2021.

So, this is information about how you can submit comments on the draft EIS. You can, there's an email address there that we've set up so you can use that and send your comments to that address, or you can call a phone number.

We've set up a toll-free phone number that you can call and you can leave a voicemail, and it gives you an option of either leaving the voice if you want to leave it in English or in Navajo. You can choose, you can press one or two and leave your voicemail.

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Or you can send it by snail mail to the address that's there. Just mail comments to and then it provides the address and then, or you can go to a website which is set up for receiving comments on projects. And that's the Federal Rulemaking website.

And we can certainly, if you choose to go that way, or whichever way you choose to go, please just contact us and we can help you, you know, decide which way you'd like to submit your comments, and help you navigate that site if you choose to go to the website for that.

Joanna, back to you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Okay.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you.

MS. PINEDA: Thank you.

MS. MANYGOATS: Yes.

MS. PINEDA: So, the last, I think it's the last slide is Slide 22, and this has the contact information for Ashley, and there's her email address and her phone number.

And for Jim Smith, and he is the project manager for the safety review, for the NRC's Safety Review. So, and then also myself, Christine Pineda. I believe, I'm listed on the slide as well.

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PARTICIPANT: Ms. Pineda, what is your title?

MS. PINEDA: Environmental Project Manager, the same as Ashley.

(Off the microphone comments.)

(Native language spoken.)

MS. MANYGOATS: Back to you, ladies.

MS. DAYE: Okay. Thank you. I have a little comment. It's kind of like, it's a funny little comment in Navajo, in Navajo.

Usually with our New Mexico Navajo words for arroyo we call it (Native language spoken.) And the (Native language spoken.) because we always hear (Native language spoken.), you know, from the Arizona people, (Native language spoken.).

It's kind of like, it's good to, you know, know but (Native language spoken.).

So, at the same time I know that from our chapter's point of view, that we will do, as chapter officials, and what we will do is we will inform our community, some of our community members and talk to them and tell them about what was presented to us today.

And with that what we will probably do is we're going to do a resolution, probably next month or before, to do a resolution and with that resolution

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we will determine whether, if we're going to agree, you know, with what has been presented to us, especially with United Nuclear.

I know that a couple years ago, yes, you know, the water escaped, the uranium escaped into our arroyos and it caused a lot of damages to the livestock owners, you know, and all of, you know, a lot of damage was done.

But right now, I believe there are, they are trying to fix the problem. And I know that I think if the agreement or if this is approved, then I'm thinking that they will probably be advertising for jobs, you know, for truck drivers. They might be advertising for that, but that won't probably happen until maybe in 2023. I'm just thinking that because it will take that long, you know, for all the paperwork to be processed.

But in the meantime, we appreciate everyone that was listening and everyone that was participating in this presentation and it's a whole, it's a real, it's real good information. That's what I would say about the presentation. Thank you.

MR. YAZZIE: Chapter president?

MS. TSOSIE: Yes. Yes.

MR. YAZZIE: This is Edmund Yazzie. I'm

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still on the call, okay?

MS. TSOSIE: Oh, okay. Go ahead. Okay.

MR. YAZZIE: Yes, I just want to make a few comments. I really want to thank the presenters while presenting what they have had, you know, almost two hours.

And once I get done with this call, I'm going to jump back on (inaudible). But Chapter President and also officials, I heard your comments from Ms. Daye and Mr. Nez about the issues with the Navajo Nation.

But before I talk about that real quick, officials and members, we also like to have EPA do a report to the community and to the official as well.

I say this with the utmost respect to the report that was given, but officials, you have to understand that there was a legislation that was prompted by us, we, and indicating that there should be no transport of any uranium which is a, which passed and so that's one thing that we got to look at.

And then also, EPA is looking into this too as well. And the President Nez and the president's staff, also indicated that, and Church Rock Chapter, also had indicated that there should be no transport of one site to the other, no transport of waste from

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the site of Church Rock and Pinedale just down to 200 feet away.

We want the waste to be taken away, not just being transferred within the boundaries of the chapters that I mentioned.

And so, of course we'll present the report too as well, but I appreciate the presentation of what we've heard in the past two hours. So, appreciate that and I know our officials are respecting the report.

I didn't hear no, you know, no confidence or, you know, any statement of that matter.

But I just want to say that, Madame President, and I'll go ahead and log off the call and (inaudible) to get back on the (inaudible) committee which is going on right now, Madame President.

MS. TSOSIE: Okay. Thank you.

[Non-NRC related business conducted]

MS. PINEDA: Excuse me? Hi. This is Christine with the NRC. I just wanted to know if you wanted us to stay in the meeting or should we excuse ourselves?

MS. TSOSIE: Oh, excuse you, go ahead. We'll excuse you.

MS. PINEDA: Okay, you're finished with us then?

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MS. TSOSIE: Yes. Yes.

MS. PINEDA: Okay. All right. Thanks so much for your time and for allowing us to speak with you today.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 4:06 p.m. EST)

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