

NRCREP - DO NOT support GEIS for in situ leach uranium mining

From: "SMALL, SUE" <ssmall@cnm.edu>
 To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
 Date: 08/28/2007 9:56 AM
 Subject: DO NOT support GEIS for in situ leach uranium mining

7/24/07
 72 FR 40344
 (29)

I do not support the Nuclear Regulatory Commission process of drafting and issuing a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) on in situ leach uranium mining.

Since the GEIS will remove the current environmental inquiries required for each specific proposed mining site, restrict public comment on future uranium mining licenses, and undermine environmental justice in our state of New Mexico, I do not want the NRC to change to the GEIS.

As the price of uranium continues to rise, more and more corporations are trying to get in on the profits by applying for licenses in New Mexico for in situ mining. Already they have applied for exploratory permits near communities, and on U.S. Forest Service lands on Mt. Taylor. In situ mining requires the injection of chemicals into the ground that destabilize radioactive and other toxic minerals, which then leach into and ruin our drinking water. Once our aquifers are poisoned with uranium and other toxic heavy metals, they will never be clean again. So the NRC must adhere to public safety and public interest issues by not adopting GEIS processes for such uranium mining.

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