

From: Carol Joan Patterson <joanie.patterson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 2:47 PM
To: UNC-ChurchRockEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] remove toxic wastes

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 and have occupied the lands for at least 100 years, and have been exposed to toxic mine wastes since 1969. Since 2006, this group has advocated that uranium mine wastes be removed from the community to a licensed, offsite disposal facility to repair and restore their lands and health and 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 President Nez and Vice President Lizer in a letter to NRC dated April 12, 2021 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."

I agree with the RWPRCA that the Navajo Nation lead a multi-stakeholder effort to find suitable sites for permanent disposal of uranium mines outside of the Navajo Nation. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee should 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.

Please show respect and consideration for the well-being of the land and the Navajo Nation.

Sincerely,
Carol Joan Patterson

Federal Register Notice: 85FR72706
Comment Number: 118

Mail Envelope Properties (1427632602.877098.1622227595312)

Subject: [External_Sender] remove toxic wastes
Sent Date: 5/28/2021 2:46:35 PM
Received Date: 5/28/2021 2:46:38 PM
From: Carol Joan Patterson

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Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1952	5/28/2021 2:46:38 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
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Sensitivity: Normal
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