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Literature Survey

Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment

John Redhouse

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Literature Survey by John Redhouse

Abstract

Literature surveyed included, but was not limited to, the draft and final environmental impact statements and record of decision for the White Mesa Mill. Though woefully inadequate, the DEIS and FEIS supported the ROD which approved the license for the uranium mill. Other literature surveyed included the administrative record or records of mill license amendments issued or proposed to be issued from October 25, 2004 to October 30, 2006 or the approximate project period. Besides inadequate environmental impact statements and even more inadequate environmental assessments, there exists a dearth of independent technical and scientific information related to the radiological effects of the White Mesa Mill. Also sadly lacking in the mill licensing and license amendment processes was and is the existence of sound ethnographic data documenting the significance of the uranium mill's impacts on Navajo cultural resources. However in the absence of adequate or independent environmental information and the paucity of sound cultural data, we were still able to survey and review the broad sweep of available literature appertaining to the unique history and geography of the uranium-rich Paradox Basin and Colorado Plateau.

Included in our literature survey were *If You Poison Us: Uranium and Native Americans* by Peter Eichstaedt, Red Crane Books, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1994; *Memories Come to Us in the Rain and the Wind: Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners and Their Families*, Navajo Uranium Miner Oral History and Photography Project, Red Sun Press, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; *The Navajo People and Uranium Mining* edited by Doug Brugge, Timothy Benally, and Esther Yazzie-Lewis, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 2006; *Uranium Frenzy: Boom and Bust in the Colorado Plateau* by Raye Ringholz, W.W. Norton Company, New York City, New York, 1989; *Uranium Frenzy: Saga of the Nuclear West* by Raye Ringholz, Utah State University Press, Logan, 2002, Revised Edition; *Quest for the Golden Circle: The Four Corners and the Metropolitan West, 1945-1970* by Arthur Gomez, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1994; *Warm Sands: Uranium Mill Tailings Policy in the Atomic West* by Eric Mogren, University of Colorado Press, Boulder, 2002; and *Yellowcake Towns: Uranium Mining Communities in the American West* by Michael Amundson, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 2002.

Also included in our survey were the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the San Juan Resource Area, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the San Juan Resource Area, and the Record of Decision approving the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the San Juan Resource Area.

Exposure: Uranium Radiation Among Miners and Millers by Claradina Toya, Dine CARE, Shiprock, New Mexico, 1996 was also surveyed.

Also surveyed were Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Performed by the U.S. DOE: An Overview by Paul Robinson, Southwest Research and Information Center, Albuquerque, N.M., 2004 and "Reclaiming the Land: History of Uranium Mill Tailings Clean-up", Voices from the Earth, Fall, 2004.

The White Mesa Mill is located within the aboriginal land claim area of the Navajo Tribe.

A literature survey related to this policy issue included Navajo Use and Occupancy of Lands North of the San Juan River in Present-Day, Utah to 1935 by David Brugge, Navajo Tribe, Window Rock, Arizona, 1966 and "Navajo Frontiers in Utah and Troublous Times in Monument Valley" by Lee Correll, Utah Historical Quarterly, Spring, 1971. The survey also included "Revolution at Utah's Grassroots: Navajos seek political power", "The need is great at the grassroots", and "Mark Maryboy politicks with a two-by-four", High Country News, July 30, 1990; "The Navajos in Utah", Navaho, Winter, 1990; and "Navajos win another battle in war for equality" and "San Juan County, Utah", High Country News, October 14, 1996.

Also included in the survey were A Utah Navajo History by Clyde Benally, et al, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1982; The Northern Navajo Frontier: 1869-1890, Expansion through Adversity by Robert McPherson, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1988; Sacred Land, Sacred View: Navajo Perceptions of the Four Corners Region by Robert McPherson, Brigham Young University Press, Provo, Utah, 1992; The Journal of Navajo Oshley: An Autobiography and Life History edited by Robert McPherson, Utah State University Press, Logan, 2000; Navajo Land, Navajo Culture: The Utah Experience in the Twentieth Century by Robert McPherson, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2001; and A Navajo Legacy: The Life and Teachings of John Holiday by John Holiday and Robert McPherson, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2005.

The complaint and decision in the case of Navajo Tribe of Indians v. United States of America were also surveyed.

The Kaiyella Band of Navajos also claim the land in the area of the White Mesa Mill.

A literature survey related to this policy issue included "Utah Navajos Organize for Land Rights" and "Kaiyella's Land: A Geohistory", Tribal Peoples Survival, Spring, 1988; Special Report: Utah Navajos Dispossessed by John Redhouse, 1991; Resolution, Kaiyella Band of Navajos, July 11, 1992; Declaration of Continuing Sovereignty, Kaiyella Band of Navajos, July 11, 1992; "Maryboy shares woeful tale with United Nations group" and "Kaiyella Band calls on U.N. for help with land", Farmington Daily Times, August 23, 1992; "Trust Fund Abuse", Letter to the Editor by Jack Jones, Albuquerque Journal, February 16, 1993; "Navajo group seeks support for proposed U.N. declaration", Gallup Independent, April 20, 1994; Update: Kaiyella Band of Navajos v. United States of America, 1994; and "Utah's Kaayellii Deneh fight for land", Voces Unidas, May, 1998.

The relationship between uranium mining in the Arizona Strip and the White Mesa Mill was explored in "Navajo Tribe Selects Land Sites", Tribal Peoples Survival, Fall, 1981 and Geopolitics of the Navajo Hopi Land Dispute by John Redhouse, Redhouse/Wright Productions, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1986.

The relationship between uranium mining on the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon and the White Mesa Mill was also explored in "Tonantzin Protests Uranium Mining", Tribal Peoples Survival, Spring, 1987; Indigenous Uranium Network: A Structure for Continuing Resistance by John Redhouse, September, 1987; Resolution, Havasupai Tribe, May 2, 1988; "Havasupai Tribe To Host Second Indigenous Uranium Forum", "Havasupai, Forest Service At Loggerheads Over Canyon Mine", "Chronology of the Canyon Mine Controversy", and "First Indigenous Uranium Forum: September 28, 1987", Tribal Peoples Survival, Summer, 1988; "Havasupai Tribe Hosts Second Indigenous Uranium Forum", "South Meets North", "We Are The Grand Canyon", "The Elders Are Our Future", "Havasupai Tribe Battles Destructive Outside Forces", "Government Conspiracy Denies Havasupai Religious Freedom", "Court Date On Havasupai Suit Changed", "Canyon Mine Ore To Follow Yellowcake Road", and "Havsuw Baaja: People of the Blue Green Water", Tribal Peoples Survival, Fall, 1988; "Report on the First Global Radiation Victims Conference and the Indigenous Uranium Forum", Kerry Richardson's Report, November, 1988; Statement to the World Council of Churches, Havasupai Tribe, May, 1989; "Indians Say WIIP Defiles Mother Earth", Albuquerque Journal, June 14, 1989; "Grandmother Canyon Under Siege", Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum Newsletter, October, 1990; "Uranium Mining at the Grand Canyon: What Costs to Water, Air, and Indigenous People?" by Cate Gilles, et al, The Workbook, Spring, 1991; "Havasupai Tribe Holds Fourth Grandmother Canyon Gathering" and "Havasupai Tribe Approves Constitution", Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum Newsletter, December, 1991; "Supreme Court Rejects Havasupai Appeal", "Indigenous People Testify at World Uranium Hearing", and "An Overview of Uranium and Nuclear Development on Indian Lands in the Southwest", Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum Newsletter, September, 1993; A Short History of the Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum, 1997; "Sierra Club, Tribe Fear Mine Opening: Owner Says Market For Uranium Lacking", Albuquerque Journal, August 2, 2001; "Critics anticipate mining near Grand Canyon", Navajo Times, August 8, 2001; and "Yavapai fear energy plan will lead to uranium mine near Grand Canyon", Indian Country Today, August 8, 2001.

The relationship between proposed uranium mining on the Navajo Big Boquillas Ranch and the White Mesa Mill was further explored in "Navajo BoGate Looms" and "Old MacDonald's Ranch Causes Land Dispute", Tribal Peoples Survival, Winter, 1988 and Researchs by John Redhouse, June, 1998.

The Utah Navajos and White Mesa Utes oppose the amendatory licensing of the White Mesa Mill.

A literature survey related to this policy issue included Utah Navajo Radiation Victims by John Redhouse, November, 1997; Research Activities by John Redhouse, March, 1998; Researchs by John Redhouse, June, 1998; More Researchs by John Redhouse, June, 1998; Researchs by John Redhouse, December, 1998; "Navajo Groups Question why the International Uranium Corporation mill in Blanding—Utah's Covert Dump—is not included in Initiative 1", Press Release, Dine CARE, November 2, 2002; International Uranium Corporation (IUC) and the White Mesa Mill: Who are they and what do they do...by Douglas Crosby, September, 2003; International Uranium Corporation (IUC) and the White Mesa Mill: Who are they and what do they do...by Douglas Crosby, September, 2003, Revised Edition; and "White Mesa: A Nuked Dumping Ground", Dine CARE Newsletter, Spring, 2004.

The survey also included "A clash of cultures: tribal versus nuclear", High Country News, September 19, 1994; "White Mesa Utes beat back Superfund tailings", High Country News, January 23, 1995; "Nuclear Waste, Sacred Lands, and the Death of Norman Begay: A Place Where I Can Lie Down", September-October, 1998; "Southeast Utah mill wants to recycle radioactive sludge", Navajo Times, April 12, 2001; "The Devil's Dirt: Southern Ute tribe fights for removal of toxic waste from ancient burial ground" by John Harrington, Salt Lake City Weekly, May 29, 2003; and "Uranium mill or dump?: Locals hope to stop a Utah mill from finding new work", High Country News, February 2, 2004.

The Utah Navajos and White Mesa Utes opposed a proposed Monitored Retrievable Storage site in San Juan County. Their successful campaign was reported in "Utah Governor Vetoes Nuclear Waste Proposal", Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum Newsletter, September, 1993.

The Navajo Nation has issued and reissued moratoriums on uranium exploration, mining, milling, and transportation on its lands. The effect of the moratoria has been continued by the Dine Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005. The tribal law will have an adverse effect on the future of the White Mesa Mill.

A literature survey of these policy issues included "Tribal President Zah Renews Uranium Moratorium", Southwest Indigenous Uranium Forum Newsletter, September, 1993; an information packet on the moratoria by John Redhouse, April, 1996; and "Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr. signs Dine Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005: New law bans uranium mining, processing throughout Navajo Nation", Press Release, Navajo Nation, April 30, 2005.

Also included in the survey were the 1983 and 1992 tribal executive orders and 2005 act.

The 1992 Navajo Nation Energy Policy was also surveyed.

The Navajo Nation has also considered the designation of its lands as a nuclear-free zone. 30 tribal chapters have also passed resolutions in support of the proposed designation. If

approved, such a designation would have an adverse effect on the future of the White Mesa Mill.

A literature survey of this policy issue included "Nation studying 'nuclear free'", Navajo Times, March 26, 1998; "Navajo Council looks at nuclear waste", Navajo-Hopi Observer, May 6, 1998; "Nuclear waste storage bill in Congress", Navajo-Hopi Observer, May 27, 1998; "Navajos may say no to nuclear waste", High Country News, June 8, 1998; More Researchs by John Redhouse, June, 1998; "Nuclear free zone proclamation still under review by officials", Navajo Times, February 25, 1999; and "Navajo Nation Council resolution action", Navajo Times, April 29, 1999.

Also included in the survey were a legal opinion by the Navajo Nation Office of Legislative Counsel and other related documents.

The corporate ownership pattern of the White Mesa Mill was traced in "Millionaire playing on wrong field", Letter to the Editor by Mervyn Tilden, Navajo Times, May 11, 1995; Researchs by John Redhouse, June, 1998; and "UNM Grad, Uranium Magnate Was Rockies' Part-Owner", Albuquerque Journal, May 23, 2006.

Utah Indians opposed the White Mesa Mill Alternative of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Site Remedial Action Project.

A literature survey of this policy issue included "Utes fear impacts of uranium waste disposal", December 2, 2003; "White Mesa Mill expansion considered", Dine CARE Newsletter, Winter, 2004; "White Mesa Utes cry 'environmental racism'", Salt Lake Tribune, January 28, 2005; and A Short History of the Moab Project and the White Mesa Mill Alternative by John Redhouse, December, 2005.

Also included in the survey was the complaint in the matter of White Mesa Concerned Community v. Spencer Abraham.

A literature survey of the Moab Project included "Public input sought on Moab uranium site alternatives", Navajo Times, January 16, 2003; "Feds Propose Nuclear Waste Pile Move", Albuquerque Journal, April 7, 2005; "Waste To Be Moved Away from Colorado River: Relocating Utah Pile To Cost \$300 Million", Albuquerque Journal, July 26, 2005; and "DOE Clears Way To Move Nuclear Waste: Debris Sits Near Colorado River", Albuquerque Journal, September, 2005.

Also included in the survey were the draft and final environmental impact statements and record of decision for the proposed Atlas Mill reclamation project.

The DEIS, FEIS, and ROD for the Moab uranium mill tailings site remedial action project were also surveyed.

The relationship between the approved Crescent Junction Site Alternative of the Moab Project and proposed oil shale development on the recently expanded Uintah-Ouray Ute

Reservation was explored in “Changing Political Winds Blew Ill for Waste Plan”, Albuquerque Journal, June 7, 2005; “Bill Invites Oil Shale Development: Western States May Help Energy Woes”, Albuquerque Journal, August 3, 2005; “‘It Smells Like Money’: The Lure of Unconventional Oil”, Albuquerque Journal, October 9, 2005; “Tribe forms Ute Energy to develop tribal resources”, News From Indian Country, December 26, 2005; “Domenici To Check Out Oil Shale Operations in the West”, Albuquerque Journal, May 23, 2006; “Domenici Sees Shale’s Promise: Senator Leads Hearing in Colo.”, Albuquerque Journal, June 2, 2006; “ ‘Centuries’ Worth’ of Energy Awaits, If Utes Willing”, Albuquerque Journal, June 13, 2006; and “Chevron Turning Back to Shale Oil”, Albuquerque Journal, September 26, 2006.

The relationship between expanded uranium mining on the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Plateau and the future of the White Mesa Mill was explored in “Uranium Revival: Demand returns and companies reopen mines in the Southwest”, Albuquerque Journal, January 9, 2005; “Meeting could help propel new uranium boom”, Navajo Times, June 16, 2005; “Western Colorado, Utah center of search for uranium”, Navajo Times, July 28, 2005; “Rising prices renew interest in Utah uranium”, Navajo Times, September 22, 2005; “Uranium prospectors look at Arizona Strip”, Navajo Times, November 11, 2005; “BLM Releases N. Arizona Plan: Groups Urge More Road Closures”, Albuquerque Journal, November 11, 2005; “Tribe Resists Mining: Uranium Claims Up as Price Rises”, Albuquerque Journal, January 4, 2006; “Navajos legislate to stop potential uranium rush”, Indian Country Today, January 25, 2006; “Navajo ban hopes to stop potential uranium rush”, News From Indian Country, February 6, 2006; “Navajo take a sovereign stand against latest uranium scramble”, Indian Country Today, February 15, 2006; and “Uranium industry glowing as prices skyrocket”, Navajo Times, September 14, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. R. ...", located at the bottom right of the page.