

From: [Jon Esty](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: DOE's PEIS for Uranium Exploration
Date: Monday, April 22, 2013 4:20:38 PM

Dear Mr. Plienness,

We are writing to you to express our concerns for the record to the Dept. of Energy's plan to initiate increased exploration for uranium in Mesa, Montrose, and San Miguel Counties in SW Colorado. Pushing for increased exploration of this resource is something that should not be done for numerous environmental and public health reasons.

First of all, there are a couple of dozen uranium sites in the area whose owners have decided not to mine because of low demand, high cost of refining, impact on air and water resources, etc. The DOE should also support efforts by the State of Colorado to require owners of these mines to clean them up if they are no longer going to be used. It should be the business of the DOE to be aware of all the reasons why existing mines are not now producing, not be a cheerleader for more mine development.

Secondly, serious attention must be paid to the air and water pollution and its affects on nearby residents, agriculture, and tourist industry. For example, residents of Ouray County such as ourselves experience high winds laden with dust particularly in the springtime from the west. Blowing contaminated dust from uranium mining activities only adds to the problem we experience. Water supplies are steadily declining so any potential contamination of this precious resource must be carefully evaluated. Clean water is basically a much more valuable resource than uranium. We cannot allow the mining industry to freely destroy it.

Finally, the DOE should be promoting and discovering ways to develop clean, renewal solar and wind energy on these sites. Wind and sunshine is something we have plenty of here and utilization of this resource needs to be explored much more than it is now. It should be the mission of the DOE to look to future sources of energy and not get stuck with advocating a source which is fraught with so many problems as uranium and nuclear power.

Thank you for your kind attention,

Jon & Rosemary Esty