

From: [Piera Kllanxhja](#)
To: [mail_ulpeis](#)
Subject: Uranium Mines & our land, water and air!
Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 1:57:34 PM

Dear Sirs & Ladies,

I am writing you to voice my concerns about the recently released Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that governs uranium leasing in Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel counties. I believe opening up more land for Uranium development is wrong for Western Colorado and ask that the Department of Energy provide us with a localized, in depth analysis of the Uranium Leasing Program and offer an alternative that does not leave public lands open to speculative mining activities. The proposed Piñon Ridge Uranium Mill has the potential to impact not only the region immediately surrounding the Paradox Valley, but also all of the communities downwind and downstream. The application for the proposed mill does not meet the basic requirements to protect the environment and public health and safety.

Pino Ridge Uranium Mill -It's dangers

- I am concerned about radioactive air pollution from the mill traveling downwind across most of Colorado and contaminating drinking water supplies.
 - Where will the water come from to both operate the mill and keep the radioactive tailings from blowing into the airstream? I am concerned about the impacts on the Colorado River Basin, already experiencing severe drought conditions.
 - I am concerned that any ground water contamination from the proposed tailings piles will eventually flow to the Dolores and Colorado River, contaminating drinking water supplies downstream. The state has ignored ground-water contamination from the Cotter Mill in Canyon City, CO. Man-made tailings piles eventually leak. Why repeat the mistakes of our past and create a new toxic legacy in SW Colorado.
 - As we see the impacts from the boom and bust cycles of the extractive industries impact communities across Colorado, I am concerned about the socioeconomic impacts on the rural communities of SW Colorado and the potential impacts on the tourist dependent communities directly downwind.
 - The Colorado Plateau and specifically the Dolores River Basin is one of the most treasured landscapes of the west. We do not want to destroy the land, for false dreams of mineral wealth!
 - I am concerned about the impacts on our roads from increased heavy truck traffic and the transport of radioactive materials to processing plants outside the U.S.
 - The proposed \$11M bond is woefully inadequate to pay the actual remediation costs and if history repeats itself, the owners will walk away leaving the responsibility to our children the taxpayers.
- I appreciate your thorough consideration of the proposed mill. State regulators have fallen well short of their mission to protect the environment and public health of Colorado to date in this process. We ask that you carefully consider the first uranium mill proposed in 30 years in our state and either deny this application or impose strong conditions to ensure the protection of both public health and environment.
- Sincerely,

Piera Kllanxhja