

From: [Sam Baltz](#)
To: [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Opinion Regarding proposed reopening of Uranium mining in New Mexico
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026 1:50:55 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed reopening of mining operations near Mount Taylor and the surrounding sacred landscapes in New Mexico. As someone who was born and raised in New Mexico, I submit this comment out of deep concern for environmental justice, Indigenous sovereignty, public health, and the long-term protection of culturally significant lands.

Mount Taylor and its surrounding landscapes are recognized as sacred by the Navajo Nation and multiple Pueblo communities. Reopening uranium mining in proximity to these lands threatens not only fragile ecological systems but also the cultural survival and spiritual practices of Indigenous peoples whose identities and well-being are inseparable from the land.

Indigenous communities in New Mexico have already borne disproportionate environmental and health burdens from extractive industries. Past and ongoing oil, gas, gravel, and uranium development near Chaco Canyon, the Placitas Sacred Lands, and Mount Taylor have resulted in air pollution, contaminated water, loss of medicinal plants, and increased health risks. New Mexico has historically failed to provide equal environmental protections and timely cleanup for impacted territories, and many communities continue to live with the consequences of this neglect today. These impacts reflect a long-standing pattern of treating Indigenous lands as sacrifice zones, while the economic benefits of extraction flow elsewhere.

The proposed reopening of these mines raises serious procedural and distributive justice concerns. These discussions continue to target territories that are already affected by polluted air and water and that are home to lower-income and Indigenous communities with historically limited political power. Permitting further extractive development in these areas perpetuates environmental injustice and places additional burdens on communities that have already been harmed.

Additionally, uranium mining poses long-term risks of radioactive contamination to soil, air, and groundwater, which can persist for generations and irreversibly undermine human health and traditional land-based practices. These risks are incompatible with the state's responsibility to protect culturally significant landscapes and to uphold principles of environmental justice.

For these reasons, I urge the responsible agencies to deny approval of the proposed mining operations or require a review that fully accounts for all environmental and cultural impacts. I consider New Mexico my home, one I value for its diversity, beauty, culture, and people. Decisions made today will shape the health and integrity of this land for generations. I would hate to make the same mistakes as before.

Thank you for considering this public comment.

Sincerely, Samantha Baltz
Rio Rancho, New Mexico, student, resident

January 29, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Acoma, a farmer, and an environmental justice advocate with two local grassroots organizations in New Mexico

I am writing because I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Naya Anllo-Valdo, M.A.

January 29, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Acoma, a farmer, and an environmental justice advocate with two local grassroots organizations in New Mexico

I am writing because I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

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Sincerely,

Naya Anllo-Valdo, M.A.

January 29, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Ashlee Begaye, a Dine woman who cares deeply about our land and the sacred Mt. Taylor.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of

radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Ashlee Begaye, MA

From: [Alicia Gallegos](#)
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 4:06:53 PM
Attachments: [image1769814279342](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is regarding Laramide Resources' Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan for La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Alicia Gallegos, I am from the Pueblo of Laguna— affiliated with the village of Paguate— and the Pueblo of Acoma. I currently work as the Climate Justice Organizer for the organization Pueblo Action Alliance and I have been doing environmental advocacy work for 3 years.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa project and would like to request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. Being from the village of Paguate, where all of my closest family members are currently located, has been heartbreaking because of the devastation that uranium mining has brought our peoples' health and wellbeing as well as the health of the land, water, air, plants, and animals. There is a historical legacy of uranium mining in the Grants Mineral Belt— specifically on and near Laguna Pueblo lands— starting from the 1950's and concluding in 1984. Generations later we are dealing with high rates of chronic illnesses, cancers, fibrosis of the lungs, kidney failure, and overall suffering. Even the newest generation of children are inheriting these diseases linked to radiation exposure. People in my village are stuck with the contamination and the destruction left behind by these companies because even to this day there has not been sufficient clean up and land remediation efforts! At that time our people were unaware of the full scope of impact this mining industry would have even decades later, however, today that is not the case. We are aware. We are educated. Most of all, we will not let that happen again.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. I read the Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan myself and see there is no specified mill this uranium would be sent to. Regardless, I do not want surrounding communities to be at risk of exposure during the transportation process.

As a tribal member, we would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within

the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. Proposing a mine in this region is not only disrespectful but makes it more dangerous for our tribal communities to engage in cultural activities in this area, because that will never stop.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining. Moreover, as a young person, I cannot let uranium mining activities ever enter tribal boundaries again for the sake of future generations that will come after me.

Sincerely,

Alicia Gallegos

Climate Justice Organizer

Laguna Pueblo & Acoma Pueblo

Pronouns: She/They

puebloactionalliance.org



Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Silas Grant <silasporellegrant@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 1:08 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit

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January 29, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a faculty member in the Department of American Studies at the University of New Mexico. I hold a PhD in anthropology and have expertise in matters of environmental justice.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. I am also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

I would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apache. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwestern United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Alexis Ray <arayx5170@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 11:14 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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January 29, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Alexis Ray, currently 25 years old. I am from the Pueblo of Acoma. I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. I have a personal history with being the trickle of effect of mining. My great grandfather worked at the uranium mines in Grants, New Mexico he resides now in the village of Anzac that is on our Pueblo land he was diagnosed with a tumor that was growing inside his kidneys. My maternal grandfather worked at the uranium mines in Grants, New Mexico right after his father because the cattle business was slow and that was their primary source of income until the mines came but what came with it was alcoholism, domestic violence and detriment of health. He now resides in

Albuquerque, New Mexico where his health is slowly declining, He is suffering from early symptoms of COPD, his voice almost all but gone due to his severe coughing and shortness of breath. My paternal Grandparents both worked in the uranium mining directly and indirectly and it has caused my grandfather to be put on oxygen, my grandmother's kidneys are slowly failing. She constantly has to be drained for water retention in her body which causes suffocation of her lower abdomen and legs. My paternal grandmothers' husband who I consider to be my grandfather was put onto oxygen due to also being diagnosed with COPD he was in the process of getting a settlement due to the fact his cancer was one of the many that are screened and a major identification of uranium exposure he died just recently of two and a half months ago he fought cancer once in his younger days of thirty or forty years of age he was told that he was cancer free then it came back more aggressively to which he was put in the hospital was put on a strain of chemotherapy which ultimately killed him as well his organs went into organ failure and he died in that hospital. My maternal grandmother has a benign tumor that is inside her brain which is causing her issues but she doesn't count in any settlement or research because her timing of ailments came after the time periods because she is a downwinder also her brother my grandfather was only born with one kidney which is a under researched effect of birth defects amongst the wives or significant others who either worked in the mines directly and indirectly again the downwinders of the miners. This uranium is majorly understudied. Everyone wants the innovations and the power from this material, but no one wants to know the irreversible effects of uranium. These may not be my stories, but these people are living and breathing proof that uranium mining in our communities and pueblos alike do not benefit us in longevity. I see it every day because as soon as the mines were closed that town of grants was down in ruins, small business opening and shutting down. I grew up around mines my whole life because my mothers ex-husband worked in mines copper and coal to be specific, the only diploma he has ia is his high school diploma and the certifications to operate these heavy machinery. Even seeing him and his other coworkers operate in that mine they just had hard hats, yellow vests, and metal toe work boots. There was no sign of masks to be put on while operating the machinery unless you were directly working with the material. My father's significant other grew up and lived in the village of Pagate on the Pueblo of Laguna they recently gave the village warnings of drink the water in their village the radioactive is still there in that village because as soon as she came back from college started settling down she has never had a detrimental health issues but she knew the water there always tasted funny. She did not believe in the fact that the mines were still actively hazards till she gave birth to my younger brother he was born with water in his kidneys to which he still does which he is constantly being monitored not only that but her older sister they share the mother but not father neither parent has a genetic or medical history being the family but yet she had cancer. Her sister's medical examination is also proof that some environmental change has caused her to have cancer. Not only that but she grew up in a canyon that is between grants and bluewater known as haystack it's a small cul-de-sac where her father's family come from not only that but growing up there with their navajo family members she remembers her grandmother's home being tested for uranium exposure with men in white hazard suits then being told they had to be moved because the home had been tested positive for uranium exposure. Being an indigenous person who grew up being told that this ground we walk on the animals you see the mountains you look in either direction is a living being a major symbol in our daily lives. This is so heartbreaking Mount Taylor is not just a mountain its a place where your dad takes you to go wood hauling to warm our community and family its a mountain that is a home to the deer and elk that we hunt the mountain lions and bears also call that place home the snow that melts and runs off the mountain trickles into small rivers that go through the Pueblo of Acoma land. To put this in perspective would you tell a poverty community go buy cases of water when they can barely afford to feed and house their family your only positive argument is the employment and funds that would go into the small town of grants none of the pueblos or neighboring communities would never see a single percentage of funds from the mine not only that who's going to get these jobs most likely the highly educated people and the

labor workers who do not have a education no higher than a high school diploma. Overall you cannot guarantee anyone's safety uranium is an unstable material that even our ancestors had a warning or name for this material our navajo neighbors called it an evil spirit the acomas called it a monster the lagunas called it a poison overall our ancestors knew the material would bring disaster in their time or the future until you can one hundred percent guarantee that this mine is safe and you can return it to the way you found the aquifers without the warnings of having to boil water so it's drinkable. New Mexico is the land of enchantment because we are the only place where you can go miles without a single building, the original land untouched. If the mines continue, we will no longer be no as the land of enchantment we will be known as the uranium enslavement state. We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Alexis Ray

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Christi Ruffin <christi73@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 6:46 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] oppose the re-opening of a legacy Uranium mine in Cibola County

You don't often get email from christi73@ymail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm a concerned citizen and wanted to note a public comment to Oppose the re-opening of a legacy Uranium mine in Cibola County.

It is of most significance to remind our communities, tribal leaders, state leader and federal entities that Mount Taylor was established as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) protected under the Historic Preservation Act in 2009. This geographic area holds an important cultural identity to the people of Acoma Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Navajo Nation, and many more Indigenous communities. This project would not only impact citizens located in Cibola County, but everyone downwind and downstream of the site.

The call is for :

- No new mining or reopening of old legacy uranium mines
- Justice for impacted communities
- Land remediation and clean up
- Honor the significance of Traditional Cultural Property designati
- Listen to tribal communities

Thank you for your consideration
Christi Ruffin

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Elisa Chino <elisachinobooking@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 1:16 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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January 30, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation

Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Elisa Chino of the Pueblo of Acoma.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

[Add in: personal narratives ,connections to this region, and/or experiences with past uranium

mining activities. If none, delete section]

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Elisa Chino

From: [Donna Detweiler](#)
To: [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Permit
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026 7:04:05 PM

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Dear Director McCullough,

I am writing to request denial of Laramide's La Jara Mesa Uranium mine application for its Operations and Reclamation Plan near Mt Taylor. Until indigenous communities near the mine are giving an in-person hearing to voice their concerns and give their consent, this renewal of mining should be blocked, as it would endanger water security for the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma, waters which are already polluted and over-appropriated. In addition, the transport and storage of radioactive waste could create additional health hazards.

Furthermore, the mine site is on protected Traditional Cultural Property for multiple indigenous tribes and nations who hold ceremony and gather medicine from this land. So it is highly inappropriate for extraction to degrade and disfigure this landscape and its inhabitants, both human and nonhuman. Why should New Mexicans cede their precious resources to a Canadian company?

I have climbed the magnificent Mt Taylor (aka Tsoozit) and camped on her flanks. Much better to provide jobs that are safer than mining and more respectful of the communities who hold her sacred.

Thx for your careful consideration of this fraught application!
Sincerely,
Donna Detweiler

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Alesandra - Three Sisters Collective <alesandra.3sc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 12:00 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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February 2, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a concerned community member with generational ties to New Mexico.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

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health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Alesandra Candelaria

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Geneva <almondparty@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 5:48 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No Uranium Mining

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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To Director McCullough and those whom it should concern,

I write as an outdoor enthusiast and lifelong resident of New Mexico to ask that you put an end to the proposed La Jara Mesa Uranium mine project. Tsoodzit (or Mount Taylor as it is often called) was established as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) protected under the Historic Preservation Act in 2009, and holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches.

The Pueblo of Acoma and the All Pueblo Council of Governors have submitted letters opposing the La Jara Mesa Uranium mine project in 2024, and it would please me to see their sovereignty respected.

This project would not only impact citizens located in Cibola County, but everyone downwind and downstream of the site. Our mountains are critical to biodiversity, and our wildlife ecosystems are already under threat due to the lack of snowpack and hotter, dryer summers. Our state has already suffered the largest single release of radioactive materials into the environment in US history via the Church Rock incident and its legacy of cancer and reproductive harms. There are currently a total of 5 uranium mining projects that are looking to break ground in New Mexico, all at different stages in the federal and state approval process. All five pose an unacceptable risk to our state's water and wellbeing.

I urge you to act for a future in which children and scientists can explore nature free from radioactive hazards, and we can learn from our past in the living museums of our irreplaceable landscapes. Stop the mines.

Sincerely,
Geneva Harstine

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jess Karan <jess.karan@cottonwoodgulch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:07 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am an environmental educator based in Albuquerque who takes countless student groups to Mt. Taylor each year.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, Native communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry

and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Jess Karan

--

Jess Karan
Youth Conservation Corps Coordinator
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions
www.cottonwoodgulch.org
9223 4th St NW ~ ABQ, NM 87114
505-248-0563 (Albuquerque Office, mid-August through May)
505-862-7503 (Thoreau Office, June through mid-August)



Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Vesper Moore <Vesper.moore@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 10:16 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to La Jara Mesa Mining Application

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Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Director McCullough and Mining and Minerals Division Staff,

I am writing to formally oppose the La Jara Mesa Mining Application proposing the reopening of a legacy uranium mine near Mount Taylor in Cibola County.

This proposal represents not only a serious environmental and public health risk, but a profound moral failure to reckon with the ongoing harms of uranium mining in New Mexico, harms that have never been fully remediated and continue to impact Indigenous, rural, and low-income communities to this day.

Mount Taylor is not simply a geographic feature. It is a sacred landscape, a watershed, a living cultural and spiritual site, and a source of sustenance and identity for multiple Tribal Nations. Any decision that threatens this land must be evaluated through the lens of cumulative harm, historical trauma, and environmental justice, not narrow technical compliance alone.

New Mexico is already home to hundreds of abandoned uranium mines, many of which remain unremediated decades after closure. Communities downstream and downwind continue to experience elevated rates of cancer, kidney disease, respiratory illness, and intergenerational health impacts directly linked to uranium exposure. To consider reopening a legacy mine while these harms persist sends a clear and troubling message: that certain lands and lives remain expendable in the pursuit of extractive profit.

As a leader working at the intersection of community and public health, I am deeply concerned about the mental health and social impacts of reopening uranium mining. Environmental degradation, loss of sacred land, and renewed exposure to toxic risk are not abstract stressors, they are drivers of anxiety, depression, displacement, and community destabilization. These costs are real, measurable, and borne disproportionately by Indigenous and rural residents.

The precautionary principle must apply here. When the long-term risks to water, soil, air, and human life are well-documented, and when the benefits accrue to a limited few, it is incumbent upon the State to say no.

I respectfully urge the Mining and Minerals Division to deny the La Jara Mesa Mining Application, to honor Tribal sovereignty and community opposition, and to prioritize remediation, healing, and sustainable futures over reopening the wounds of New Mexico's uranium legacy.

Thank you for accepting public comment and for your responsibility to protect the people, lands, and waters of this state.

Sincerely,

Vesper Moore

www.vespermoore.com

Vesper.moore@outlook.com

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Sandra A <sandra.almand@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 10:18 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Representatives,

I am writing to oppose the La Jara Mesa Unianium Mine.

This mine is detrimental to our water, our environments and the people of this area. Does anyone follow history? We are still mitigating the results of the uranium mines of the 1940's through the 1980's. A whole generation of storytellers was decimated by the uranium mining industry. Read the history books and listen to their survivors. Uranium mining is detrimental to water, environments and the cultural , and physical health of our communities.

No amount of money can mitigate or replace the health of our communities.

Please, oppose the La Jara Mesa Unianium Mine.

Thank you,

Sandra Almand

Los Ranchos, NM

"The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge."--Bertrand Russell

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Elaine Cimino <ecimino10@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 8:43 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for PUBLIC HEARING re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Re: Administrative Completeness Determination and Public Hearing Request

The determination by the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) that the La Jara Mesa uranium mining permit application is “administratively complete” raises serious legal and policy concerns when viewed in light of New Mexico’s statutory obligations to protect public health, water resources, and cultural landscapes.

Under New Mexico law, an administrative completeness determination is a procedural threshold—not a finding that an application adequately addresses environmental, cultural, or health impacts. However, when such determinations are made and relied upon to accelerate permitting timelines before full environmental analysis and public process occur, they risk prioritizing speculative financial interests over the protections required by law.

Administrative completeness is not environmental adequacy

The New Mexico Mining Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 69-36-1 to 69-36-20, was enacted explicitly to ensure that mining operations “do not create undue risk to public health, safety, or the environment” and that affected lands and waters are protected both during and after mining operations. The Act requires that permits include sufficient information to evaluate impacts to groundwater, surface water, air quality, reclamation feasibility, and long-term site stability.

See § 69-36-7 (permit requirements) and § 69-36-11 (reclamation and financial assurance).

An “administratively complete” finding under MMD rules (19.10.6 NMAC) merely indicates that an application contains the minimum components required for agency review. It does not establish that the application has adequately analyzed or mitigated environmental impacts, nor does it substitute for the substantive review required under the Mining Act and related regulations.

Risk of premature momentum and speculative pressure

Uranium mining proposals such as La Jara Mesa are advancing during a period of heightened uranium price speculation and renewed industry interest. In this context, early procedural determinations can

function as de facto signals to investors that a project is “moving forward,” even though no substantive findings have yet been made regarding impacts to water, health, or cultural resources.

This creates a structural risk: once an application is treated as procedurally viable, pressure mounts on agencies to maintain momentum, potentially narrowing the scope of alternatives, mitigation measures, or outright denial. New Mexico courts have repeatedly emphasized that agencies must not allow procedural shortcuts to undermine substantive environmental protections. See, e.g., *Gila Resources Information Project v. NM Water Quality Control Commission*, 2018-NMSC-025 (agency decisions must be supported by substantial evidence and comply with statutory mandates).

Cultural and community protections require heightened scrutiny

The La Jara Mesa project is proposed within the Mt. Taylor region, an area formally recognized as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) under federal and state frameworks and sacred to multiple Pueblo Nations and the Navajo Nation. New Mexico agencies have independent obligations to consider cultural and community impacts under state law, including:

- NMSA 1978, § 18-6-11 (Cultural Properties Act), which requires consideration of impacts to properties of cultural and historic significance; and
- The state’s trust responsibility and government-to-government consultation obligations with Tribal Nations, reinforced by executive policy and long-standing administrative practice.

Advancing a uranium mining application through early procedural stages without full Tribal consultation risks undermining these obligations and marginalizing Indigenous voices at the moment when alternatives and conditions should still be meaningfully considered.

Public hearings are a legal safeguard, not a delay tactic

The Mining Act and MMD regulations explicitly provide for public hearings as a mechanism to ensure transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making. See 19.10.6.601 NMAC (public participation and hearings). Public hearings are particularly warranted where a project:

- involves radioactive materials with long-term health risks,
- affects groundwater resources in arid regions,
- intersects with recognized Traditional Cultural Properties, and
- follows a documented legacy of unremediated uranium contamination in surrounding communities.

In this context, a public hearing is not an obstacle to lawful permitting—it is a core component of the process envisioned by the Legislature.

Conclusion

For these reasons, the administrative completeness determination for the La Jara Mesa uranium mining permit should not be treated as an endorsement of the project or as justification for accelerated permitting. Doing so risks privileging speculative financial interests tied to short-term commodity markets over the Mining Act’s central purposes: protection of water, health, land, and communities.

A full public hearing and robust Tribal consultation are legally warranted and necessary to ensure that any permitting decision complies with New Mexico law, honors cultural protections, and places community health and environmental integrity above speculative extraction.

Respectfully,

Elaine Cimino

Rio Rancho NM 87124

505-604-9772

Legal authorities cited are attached and incorporated by reference

Endnotes / Authorities Cited

Public Comment on La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

1. New Mexico Mining Act

NMSA 1978, §§ 69-36-1 to 69-36-20.

(Establishes the purpose of the Act to prevent adverse impacts to public health, safety, and the environment from mining operations.)

2. Mining Permit Requirements

NMSA 1978, § 69-36-7.

(Requires mining permit applications to contain sufficient information to evaluate environmental impacts, including impacts to water resources.)

3. Reclamation and Financial Assurance

NMSA 1978, § 69-36-11.

(Requires reclamation plans and financial assurance sufficient to cover long-term reclamation and environmental protection.)

4. New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division Regulations – Administrative Completeness

19.10.6 NMAC (Mining Act Rules), including provisions governing permit application contents and agency determinations of administrative completeness.

(Clarifies that administrative completeness is a procedural threshold and not a substantive approval.)

5. Public Participation and Hearings

19.10.6.601 NMAC.

(Provides for public notice, public comment, and public hearings on mining permit applications.)

6. Cultural Properties Act

NMSA 1978, § 18-6-11.

(Requires consideration of impacts to properties of historic and cultural significance, including Traditional Cultural Properties.)

7. Administrative Law – Substantial Evidence Standard

Gila Resources Information Project v. New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission,

2018-NMSC-025, 417 P.3d 369.

(New Mexico Supreme Court decision holding that agency actions must be supported by substantial evidence and comply with statutory mandates.)

8. Trust Responsibility and Tribal Consultation (State Practice)

New Mexico Executive Branch policies and long-standing administrative practice recognizing government-to-government consultation obligations with Tribal Nations, particularly where actions may affect Traditional Cultural Properties or tribal interests.

(See also general principles articulated in State ex rel. Martinez v. City of Las Vegas, 2004-NMSC-009.)

9. Legacy Uranium Contamination in the Southwest

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Uranium Cleanup on the Navajo Nation and related reports documenting unremediated uranium mine sites, groundwater contamination, and long-term health impacts in Indigenous communities.

(Background context relevant to cumulative impact and risk analysis.)

10. Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property

New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee designation of the Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property (TCP).

(Establishes formal recognition of Mt. Taylor's cultural, spiritual, and historic significance.)

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Louisa Mackenzie <louisamackenzie22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 8:42 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine Permit

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Hello Erin McCullough,

My names Louisa Mackenzie and I'm writing to urge you to oppose the La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine Permit. Please don't give permits for new mining or for the reopening of old legacy uranium mines. I also demand that there is justice for impacted communities from the legacy of uranium mining. There needs to be land remediation and clean up. Mt. Taylor has a Traditional Cultural Property designation and that designation needs to be honored. Lastly Tribal communities need to be listened to and autonomy needs to be honored and respected.

Thank you for your time,
Louisa

--

Louisa Mackenzie
louisamackenzie22@gmail.com

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Bianca Marino <bianca.marino.g@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 10:05 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Bianca Marino, I am a licensed clinical social worker and resident of El Paso, Texas. I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I love where I live. I love living in a unique desert landscape with a vibrant and diverse culture, and beautiful plants and animals around us. I do not want to see that threatened or destroyed. I would like to have children and I would like my children to be able to go outside and breathe clean air, to drink clean water, and to have a livable environment for their lives.

We as Indigenous, frontline and borderland communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Please do the right thing and prioritize the safety and wellbeing of entire communities and our precious earth over the profits of infinitely greedy corporate interests.

Sincerely,
Bianca Marino, LCSW

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: JoDee Powers <sheworkonline@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 11:26 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cibola Mining

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ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a lifelong New Mexico Resident and consultant on Rural Community Wealth Building. I'm writing to strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguata and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguata Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I strongly oppose resource extraction economies that present such an environmental and community health hazard in frontline communities of the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely, JoDee Powers

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Susan Verkamp <susieverkamp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:05 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Laramide mine

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Hello, I am writing to oppose the re-opening of the legacy mine on La Jara Mesa. The mines poses well-established risks for humans, livestock, and plants of the area. No new mines should open until all the legacy mines have been completely remediated. Thank you for taking my comment,Susan Verkamp

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Karen Yank <hamonyank@cybermesa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 4:43 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Cc: Karen Yank
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

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Dear Erin McCullough,

I am writing you as representative of the Turquoise Trail Regional Alliance. We do not support re-opening of the Uranium mine in Cibola County. No new mining should be considered or permitted until contamination from previous mining has been cleaned up. We demand justice for already impacted communities! Please listen to these tribal communities and honor their Traditional Cultural Property designation and deny this application.

Thank you,
Karen Yank
President of TTRA

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Pilar Anllo <pilaranllo01@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:40 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Uranium mining

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Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining

Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a long time resident of New Mexico, a mother of a daughter who is an enrolled tribal member of Acoma Pueblo, a long time health care worker in O'ga P'ogeh, specifically a certified Family Nurse Practitioner currently working at CSVPMC in the Wound and Hyperbaric Center

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I have taken care of countless patients who have suffered from cancer and other illnesses related to exposure to nuclear waste and watched them suffering and dying. My daughter recently lost her great Uncle who lived in Acomita his whole life serving his community died from bladder cancer. She wants to make her home in Acomita and I am extremely concerned about her health as she and her partner and many of her family members are farming in this area harvesting medicine and food.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. I refuse to have my daughter and any children she may have someday be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining

Sincerely,

Pilar Anllo CFNP

505-603-0995

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Uris Tapia-Flores <uristf.ck@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 9:05 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

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2/5/26

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining

Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a native Otomi that has lived in New Mexico for over 20 years.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna—which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize

that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Uris Tapia-Flores

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jane Huang <jane.x.huang@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 8:08 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] la jara mesa hearing request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Director McCullough,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed uranium mine. The local residents are already suffering illnesses from previous mining efforts, and if the state already has no capacity to clean up the area, I have very little confidence this new mine can be opened in a way that does not make the situation worse. Additionally, this new mine will go up on a culturally significant site. I am not some tree-hugger who reflexively hates nuclear power, but no energy source should ever be deployed if it cannot be done in a just and humane manner. This attempt to fast-track the mine's approval does not seem just or humane. Please, let there be a public meeting to discuss this mine. The decision to open it must be a collective one.

Jane Huang

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Luke Catanach <lcatanach597@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 10:16 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Committee,

As a New Mexican resident living in Bernalillo, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want land remediation and clean up, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities. Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Sincerely,
Luke Catanach
BERNALILLO, NM

February 8, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a Family Medicine physician.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of

radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Not only is the proposed project located in my sacred homelands, but I have seen the negative health impacts in my family members. Cancers, kidney failure and respiratory problems from uranium mining have caused significant loss. The uranium that remains in our water and soil infiltrates the food that my family tries to grow. As a physician, there is only so much that can be treated once the damage has been done. The cure is to prevent any future mining and to focus on completing clean up projects.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Carly Chiwiwi, MD, MPH

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Duncan McGraw <duncan.mcgraw@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 10:24 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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2026-02-08

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Duncan McGraw, a PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico studying Optical Science and Engineering, with my research focusing on agrivoltaics. I have lived in so-called New Mexico for five and a half years and in that time, I have tried to become familiar with issues facing the Indigenous peoples whose land we occupy.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Whenever I think of uranium mining and its impacts, I think about my best friend from my hometown of Kansas City whose is Diné and told me a story about her mother growing up in Gallup and playing in abandoned uranium mines as a kid. I think about the fact that 85% of Diné homes have uranium contamination and that according to a 2015 study conducted by UNM, Diné people living near the mines have uranium concentrations in their bones higher than 95% of the US population [https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/sites/g/files/mnhszr346/files/TAC_Oct2018_Addressing_Cancer_on_Navajo_Nation_508.pdf]. The impacts of uranium mining have historically disproportionately harmed Native people

and allowing the La Jara Mesa Project to continue would repeat this pattern, despite the fact that installed power generation capacity of both solar and wind installations have outpaced nuclear and follow an exponential trend [https://www.worldnuclearreport.org/IMG/pdf/wnisr2024-figure67_nukere_usa_capacityandproduction_2000_2023-2.pdf]. Nuclear power is not even something that the people of New Mexico could benefit from given New Mexico has no nuclear power plants [<https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/browser/#/topic/0?agg=1,0,2&fuel=08&geo=vvvvvvvvvvo&sec=03g&linechart=ELEC.GEN.NUC-US-99.M~ELEC.GEN.NUC-PA-99.M~ELEC.GEN.NUC-IL-99.M&columnchart=ELEC.GEN.NUC-US-99.M~ELEC.GEN.NUC-PA-99.M~ELEC.GEN.NUC-IL-99.M&map=ELEC.GEN.NUC-US-99.M&freq=M&start=200101&end=202511&ctype=map<ytype=pin&rtype=s&maptype=0&rse=0&pin=>]. We have no need for corporations to invade Native land and extract toxic, non-renewable materials for power generation in other states while New Mexico remains one of the poorest states in the so-called US.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Duncan McGraw

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Angelica Silva <silvaangelicaa@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 9:52 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Uranium Mines Public Comment

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Committee,

As a New Mexican resident living in Albuquerque, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want *land remediation and clean up*, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities. Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's official designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Sincerely,
Angelica Silva
ABQ, NM

Angelica Silva
516.369.0741

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: 3 Sisters Collective <message3sc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:40 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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2/9/26

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Dr. Christina M. Castro and I represent two New Mexico tribal communities: Jemez and Taos Pueblos. I live in O'ga P'ogeh, Santa Fe where I am the director of a grassroots, non-profit, Three Sisters Collective and an independent consultant with Castro Consulting, LLC.

I am writing to convey that our organization strongly opposes the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

We stand in solidarity with land and water defenders across Turtle Island (the Americas) and around the globe in saying our lands are not expendable and neither are we. We vehemently reject uranium mining on our homelands.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Castro, Director

On behalf of Three Sisters Collective

--

Christina M. Castro, PhD
Taos Pueblo.Jemez Pueblo.Xicana
Co-Founder, 3SC
threesisterscollective.org

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Kena Aguilera <kenaguil@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:24 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No Uranium Mines in Cibola

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Committee,

As a New Mexican resident living in Albuquerque, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want land remediation and clean up, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities. Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Sincerely,
Kena Aguilera
Albuquerque, NM.

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Amy Begay <amybegay3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:16 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for PUBLIC HEARING re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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Feb 10 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Amy Begay a Navajo tribal member and I am a veteran. I also grew up near Church Rock as a child. Many of my family members have cancer.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos

of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the

boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Amy Begay

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Charles Bragg <cgbjr67@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 1:48 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Ms. McCullough;

I am not a resident of Cibola County, but merely an American citizen who has visited New Mexico many times. I oppose the reopening of La Jara Mesa Uranium mine because it will cause severe personal damage to the local population of other American citizens and their environment. The history of uranium mining is terrible. In this case past performance is indeed a predictor of future results. There are other ways to produce energy that are less harmful to both people and their environment. Try them instead.

Sincerely,

Charles Bragg


Oceanside, CA

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Christy Green <christy.wood.green@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:59 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mine Project - Comments

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Water Resource Concerns

- The proposed extraction could significantly deplete the San Andres–Glorieta aquifer, a vital source for both agriculture and drinking water. This aquifer is already overdrawn, and further water withdrawal threatens long-term regional water sustainability. [\[emnrd.nm.gov\]](#)
- Uranium mining poses serious risks of groundwater contamination through dust, stormwater runoff, potential liner failures at clay-lined ore pads, and transportation accidents—all of which can degrade water quality for downstream users. [\[emnrd.nm.gov\]](#)

Environmental & Wildlife Impacts

- The project is situated within the Mt. Taylor Ranger District on National Forest land, with only about 16 acres directly affected—but the broader ecosystem faces disruption from surface facilities, ventilation shafts, access roads, and stormwater ponds. [\[fs.usda.gov\]](#), [\[permits.pe...rmance.gov\]](#)
- Baseline wildlife surveys are still incomplete. Until comprehensive fauna assessments are conducted—including for migratory birds subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—key species may go unprotected. [\[nmert.org\]](#), [\[permits.pe...rmance.gov\]](#)

Cultural, Tribal & Historic Resource Concerns

- The Pueblo of Acoma strongly opposes the mine, expressing fears of water contamination, tribal health impacts, disruption of cultural practices, and the project turning their lands into a “sacrifice zone”. [\[emnrd.nm.gov\]](#)
- The All Pueblo Council of Governors has issued a unanimous resolution opposing the project. [\[emnrd.nm.gov\]](#)

Although Section 106 (NHPA) investigations are ongoing, the forest service is still conducting additional cultural resource surveys, and tribal consultation is unresolved. [\[emnrd.nm.gov\]](#), [\[emnrd.nm.gov\]](#)

Transport & Community Health Risks

- Planned daily truck shipments of uranium ore (12 to 15 loads) would traverse potentially vulnerable communities, increasing risks of dust contamination, spills, and heavy-traffic-related safety hazards. [sourcenm.com], [emnrd.nm.gov]
- These transportation routes cross land and waters of tribal and non-tribal residents who may not be adequately protected or consulted.

Regulatory Precedent & Oversight Issues

- This is being considered as New Mexico's first new uranium mine in ~40 years, setting a risky precedent for future hard-rock uranium operations. [sourcenm.com], [permits.pe...rmance.gov]
- The Mining & Minerals Division (MMD) is still in technical review of the Mining Operations & Reclamation Plan; the financial assurance, technical feasibility, equitable public notice, and enforcement measures remain pending. [emnrd.nm.gov], [emnrd.nm.gov]
- A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under NEPA review (separate from state permitting), with no draft yet available—meaning environmental impacts are not adequately documented. [permits.pe...rmance.gov]

Additional Comments

- **Reject or delay the permit** until baseline hydrological studies confirm no adverse impact to the aquifer or surface waters.
- **Require comprehensive wildlife surveys and mitigation plans**, with special attention to migratory birds and rare species.
- **Ensure full tribal consultation** and resolution of cultural resource findings before technical or administrative permit approval.
- **Mandate detailed transportation safety protocols**, including spill response, dust controls, and restricted routing through tribal and rural communities.
- **Hold a robust NEPA process**, with timely issuance of a public draft EIS.
- **Strengthen financial assurance**, including long-term reclamation and post-closure monitoring bonds to cover groundwater remediation and ecosystem restoration.
- **Consider the broader precedent:** approval could open the door for more uranium projects—evaluate whether this aligns with long-term state and tribal environmental goals.

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Radmilla Cody <mscody@radmillacody.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:52 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Project
Attachments: IMG_0086.jpeg; IMG_0083.jpeg

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To whom it may concern,

The following attachment is a letter of opposition to the La Jara Mesa Project and a request to an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this urgent matter.

Blessings,

Radmilla Cody
Advocate/ Recording Artist/ Consultant

Radmilla Entertainment, LLC
www.radmillacody.com

2/9/2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Radmilla Cody, a community advocate and tribal member of the Navajo Nation.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

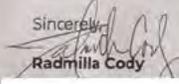
There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

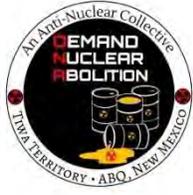
The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public

health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Radmilla Cody



Demand Nuclear Abolition

100 Gold Ave. SW, Suite 201, Albuquerque, NM 87102

protectnewmexico@gmail.com

demandnuclearabolition.org

February 9, 2026

ATTN: Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. We are Demand Nuclear Abolition (DNA), an anti-nuclear collective from Albuquerque, NM on occupied Tiwa territory.

We strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

DNA stands with the Pueblo of Acoma and the All Pueblo Council of Governors as they have released letters opposing the La Jara Mesa uranium mine project in 2024. Since Demand Nuclear Abolition

(DNA) was founded in 2016, we have been involved in fighting the continued devastating legacy of nuclear colonialism in the state of New Mexico including the fight against storage proposals of high-level nuclear and other radioactive waste in Southeastern New Mexico; clean-up efforts of past uranium mines and processing mills that have left Indigenous and frontline communities exposed to dangerous and even fatal levels of radiation that continue to affect those living near it that have yet to be cleaned up; the fight for New Mexicans to be covered under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) as downwinders of the Trinity Test and countless other bombs testing that have left New Mexicans exposed to deadly radiation for the past 75+ years; and now the current proposal for the La Jara Mesa Mining Application submitted earlier this year, as discussed above.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely, DNA Core Group

Bianca Rivera

Brady Steele

Brendan O' Shaughnessy

Bryan Kendall

Eileen O' Shaughnessy

E. Brooke Holland

Elizabeth Smith

Emily Ganderton

Joel Lorimer

Rivala Garcia

Sue Schuurman

Téa Salazar

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Stephanie S. <ssfontana5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:49 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment Regarding the La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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9 February 2026

ATTN: Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a concerned resident of the state of New Mexico and deeply concerned for the wellbeing of my Indigenous neighbors.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project. Please schedule an in-person hearing about this mining permit application. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that local Indigenous communities should be given free, advance, and informed consent of such operations. A hearing is the best way to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given sufficient advance notice of any authorization or commencement of mining activities.

Despite the fact that uranium mining has been halted in New Mexico for 40 years, the village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and other communities are still dealing with the harmful environmental and health effects of the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine, this after having been kept in the dark about the potential for health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination. These effects showed up decades later, and are still affecting people now. The people of these communities have paid a high enough price for these mining activities already, and there is no excuse for resurrecting this harmful practice.

In addition, opening a new mine in this region will severely negatively impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– is already highly contaminated. Moreover, transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste has the potential to cause additional environmental and public health hazards.

I am also concerned that the proposed project falls within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor. It's inappropriate to contemplate use of this site at all, especially as it holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I support the Indigenous and frontline communities in their strenuous opposition to continued resource extraction efforts in the Southwest United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. It's unconscionable to potentially sacrifice the health and safety of these communities once again for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry. The United States government already owes reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic impacts of uranium mining. Continuing this legacy should be out of the question.

Sincerely,

Stephanie M. Smith

Albuquerque NM 87112

Eda Gordon

██████████ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

505-988-3021

February 9, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I have been a New Mexico resident since 1977, when there were 76 active uranium mines in the Grants Mineral Belt and open vents spewing radioactive dust and fumes on the road up to Mount Taylor. I remember the gaping hole created by the Jackpile Mine at Laguna Pueblo, that destroyed agricultural lands and sacred burial sites, and sickened and eventually killed too many Pueblo community members and mine workers. At the time impacted Pueblo communities did not legally have Free, Prior and Informed Consent, nor were they provided with information of the health and environmental impacts of the Jackpile Mine. The mine was presented as an economic opportunity that would be foolish to resist.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. I am also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste, since the Waste Isolation Pilot Project has proven to be inadequate to its mission, while seeking to expand it to higher levels of radioactive hazards.

As you well know, and disrespectfully ignore, the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities, in the same way many of you attend your house of worship.

New Mexico is my home, and also the home of the entire nuclear fuel cycle from mining to disposal. I resent your expropriating our lands and resources to perpetuate and increase the devastation of New Mexico as a nuclear sacrifice area, and strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining. It is a travesty that uranium is again being explored as safe alternative energy, when depleted uranium can then be directed to make bombs and make war.

I hope you will give serious consideration to these concerns for indigenous sovereignty; the health of indigenous peoples, their lands and resources; and the future of our state, beyond palliating and padding corporate greed.

Sincerely,

Eda Gordon

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Deborah Goss <dgoss101@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 1:40 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Uranium Mines Comment

You don't often get email from dgoss101@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Subject: Uranium Mines Comment

Committee,

As a New Mexican resident, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want *land remediation and clean up*, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities. Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's official designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Sincerely,
Deborah Goss
Placitas, NM

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Luke Johnson <laj200011@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:02 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

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February 9th, 2026

ATTN: Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a resident of Taos and currently work on trails throughout the state of New Mexico. As such, I am extremely concerned about the potential consequences for both people and the environment that new uranium mining would bring.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The people of Grants and surrounding communities have suffered enough at the hands of mining companies- it is imperative that we avoid repeating history. As a trail worker, I understand the importance of a healthy environment and how access to the natural world is beneficial to all people. To pollute the land around Mt. Taylor even further is an insult to all human beings, especially Indigenous communities who call the area

home. Also, if uranium is transported by truck on and around I-40, it would only be a matter of time before an accident occurs, which would be a disaster. I strongly urge the state of New Mexico to reject all new uranium mining, not just in Cibola County but throughout this beautiful state.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Luke Johnson

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Paul Koch <Paul.Koch2@alumni.unbc.ca>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 3:01 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from paul.koch2@alumni.unbc.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

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February 8th, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Paul Koch, a Canadian Biologist with a Bachelors of Science in Natural Resource Management, currently residing in Ramah, New Mexcio.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna–which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Whilst I may not be a member of any indigenous community, I have personally seen the detrimental impact of mining practices just like this in several First Nation communities in Canada. Tailing ponds alone create irreparable and unavoidable impacts on the water table through leeching, as well as bio-accumulating in local flora and fauna. This toxicity will inevitably spread to the people who call this area home, resulting in disease, cancer, and death. Moreover, if the pond breaches, such as the 2014 Mount Polly mining disaster, our drinking water could be toxic for over 10,000 years.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Paul Koch

February 4, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Dear Ms. McCullough and the Mining and Minerals Division Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a Santa Fe resident and someone who appreciates the physical and spiritual beauty of our Pueblo lands and the areas that surround them. Protection of the land is of the utmost importance.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. Reverting to uranium mining would be detrimental to the health of humans, wildlife, soil, and more. As you know, a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. Environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

The proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I stand with our Indigenous communities to strongly oppose continued resource extraction like this. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining that happened in the past.

Sincerely,

Alison Trujillo

Santa Fe, NM

trujilloalison@gmail.com

To the Director, Erin McCoullough, of Mining and Minerals at the Natural Resources
Department of New Mexico,

My name is Alheli Caton-Garcia, for the past three years I have been learning more and more about the history of the nuclear industry in my home state. I have learned, as a student and a community organizer, that New Mexico has a long history of letting industries come in with offers of revenue for the state, of jobs for the people, of “helping” us. This industry in particular has come in and caused irreparable harm to the people.

The area the mine is slated to work in is on the Traditional Cultural Property of Mount Taylor. A mountain I have had the honor of hiking. Allowing a Uranium Mine, a mine that will be used to harvest radioactive rocks to then be generated into weapons or dirty energy is an insult to the land and the numerous communities that hold it sacred. It would be a gesture of good will to halt this mine and to allow the community to decide for itself what is best.

Your office has a mission, a mission I believe in. I do not however think that it is attainable through the La Jara Mesa mine or any other Uranium mines.

There are many uranium miners who have lost their lives in this state. Uranium miner families who have had their genetic futures compromised, forced to witness what happens to a human body exposed to uranium day after day after day. All the while the unremediated mines and radioactivity still permeate their homelands. I do not trust that Laramide Resources can or will clean up the mess they leave behind based on the history of this industry thus far.

With the amount of unremediated mines still in New Mexico and strewn across indigenous lands, on top of precious and scarce water resources for this whole desert, the Natural Resources Department would be shirking the duties in your own mission to “promote public

trust” to “ensure responsible utilization, conservation and reclamation.” This project stands in the way of a genetic future for New Mexicans, for you and your family and is in no way a responsible option for safeguarding the land and resources.

With hope.

Alheli Caton-Garcia

29 January 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining + Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for letting me comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a tribal ally.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and believe the people are owed an in person hearing regarding the mining permit application. It is important to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, in advanced of any authorization or commencement of mining activities (as outlined in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).

The communities are still dealing with the environmental degradation, ^{and} health impacts incl. chronic illnesses from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine since it closed in 1984.

→

If a new uranium mine should start operating in the region, ground water would be severely impacted, as would surface water resources. Many health and environmental concerns come to mind when considering extracting groundwater from the San Andres Gloria Aquifer or the transportation and storage of radioactive materials and waste.

Please note: the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected TCP (Traditional Cultural Property). Mt Taylor has spiritual significance to: the western Pueblos of Arcoma, Zuni + Laguna; the Navajo Nation, the Hopi tribe, many Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Tularilla Apaches. The mountain is in itself sacred + holy. It also hosts cultural + religious activities specific to the site.

We strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the SW "United States." New Mexicans deserve better employment opportunities than that that will give them cancer + passed down generational illnesses. No more experimentation on Native land + bodies. Furthermore, we demand the US Government ("our government") pays for its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Sam Crane

February 8, 2026

John Lowe



Spokane, WA 99217

impactanaly@gmail.com

Attn:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine (MORP), deemed Administratively Complete in December 2025. I am writing as a member of the public residing outside of New Mexico with professional experience involving cleanup of radiation sites located on Tribal lands. I have a bit of familiarity with this region from previous work at Superfund sites in New Mexico. A summary of relevant experience is attached to this letter.

I am writing to encourage the Mining and Minerals Division to hold an in-person hearing regarding the permit application for the La Jara Mesa Project. A hearing is needed to ensure that surrounding indigenous communities are given free, prior and informed consent sufficiently in advance of authorization or commencement of mining activities as stated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Uranium mining poses health and ecological risks to the surrounding communities and landscape including surface and groundwater. For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that the Eastern Abandoned Uranium Mine Region includes 101 mines roughly in the area between Gallup and the eastern edge of the Navajo Nation. For many, the preferred course of action would be to deny the permit for the La Jara Mesa mine. However, if further uranium mining is required to address national energy needs, the cognizant regulatory agencies must act to assure that tribal lifeways remain undisrupted during mine operation, and that reclamation leaves an exiguous footprint on the landscape.

The voices of the surrounding communities is a critical input for acting on Laramide's permit application. Should it be determined that the project go forward, local input is

important in assuring that mining operations and reclamation do not impact surrounding human and wildlife communities.

My comments are based in part on experience with the Ruby abandoned uranium mines located in the Smith Lake Chapter of the Navajo Nation in McKinley County, a site being cleaned up under Superfund. This is a cleanup effort which will consume a generation before the site is restored. As noted above, it is only one example of the health and ecological risk burden from uranium production faced by Tribes living in the southwestern U.S. Local input into the permitting process is an important element in preventing the creation of more of these sites.

Thank you for the opportunity for input into this permitting process.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Lowe

Spokane, WA

Attachment – Summary of Relevant Experience

John Lowe, CIH

e-mail: impactanaly@gmail.com

phone: (509) 378-7003

Summary of Experience, Radiation Site Cleanup on Tribal Lands in the U.S.

Career

I started with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1980. I worked in environmental consulting throughout the latter half of the 1980s and early 1990s at two now-legacy firms, Radian and Dames & Moore. In 1993, I joined CH2M HILL. I worked at the Hanford Site through two special-purpose companies: CH2M HILL Hanford, Inc. (1995) and CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (2008 – 2012). In 2017, CH2M HILL was acquired by Jacobs. I continued working for Jacobs, retiring in December 2024.

Qualifications

B.S. Environmental Toxicology, University of California, Davis, CA, 1979.

Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), Certificate 3152, issued 1985 by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, now the Board of Global EHS Licensing, Lansing, MI.

Relevant Project Examples

Ruby Mine Superfund Site, Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), Smith Lake Chapter, Navajo Nation, McKinley County, New Mexico. Client: Western Nuclear (2016 - 2019). Senior reviewer during preparation of the screening-level human health risk assessment (HHRA) portion of the draft EE/CA.

Four Corners Uranium Project, Western US. Client: Freeport McMoran (2014 – 2016). Consultant during development of human health risk screening process supporting reconnaissance and investigation phases of a multi-year project to assess up to 6,000 abandoned uranium mine claims located in remote areas of the Four Corners (Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah) portion of the western US.

Plateau Remediation Contract, Hanford Site, Richland Washington. Client: U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (2008-2012). Risk Integration Technical Lead with the CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) responsible for initiating and sustaining initiatives to assure an integrated approach to human health and ecological risk assessment across Superfund remedial actions. Reviewed exposure scenarios prepared by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Yakama Nation reflecting subsistence lifeways for use in Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) reports prepared for former reactor operations (100 Areas) and former industrial areas (300 Area) along the

Columbia River. Led preparation of a literature review of site-specific plant rooting depths and burrowing depths of mammals and insects to justify an alternate ecological point of compliance in soil under State of Washington Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) requirements, published as Sample et al., 2015.

Kayenta Mine Complex Environmental Assessment, Northern Arizona. Client: Peabody Coal (1996-1997). Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) task leader for multi-media health and ecological assessment of selenium and arsenic on the leasehold portion located in the Navajo Nation.

Professional Activities

Chair, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Risk Committee, 2022 - 2024.

Co-instructor, Professional Development Course (PDC) 904, Risk Assessment to Expand the IH Profession. American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition, May 23, 2019, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Co-instructor, PDC 604, The Art and Science of Analyzing Risk: What a Practicing IH Needs to Know, American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition (AIHCE), May 20, 2018, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Member, AIHA Joint Exposure Assessment Strategies Committee/Stewardship & Sustainability Committees Product Exposure Assessment Project Team (2015 - 2018).

Participant in Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) Trichloroethylene (TCE) Work Group, producing the report *Guidance for Contaminated Sites: Trichloroethylene Case Study*. April 2013. <https://www.tera.org/Alliance%20for%20Risk/Projects/TCE.html>. Co-authored a publication on this case study.

Relevant Publications

Sample, B., J. Lowe, P. Seeley, M. Markin, C. McCarthy, J. Hansen, A. Aly. 2015. Depth of the Biologically Active Zone in Upland Habitats at the Hanford Site Washington: Implications for Remediation and Ecological Risk Management. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*. 11(1): 150-160. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ieam.1581>

Lowe, J.A. and A. Aly. 2012. Non-Operational Property Evaluation for the Hanford Site River Corridor. Paper 12409, Waste Management 2012 Conference, February 26 – March 1, 2012, Phoenix, AZ.

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: elaina matyas <elainamatyas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:15 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine Permit

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Please deny this mining permit. Uranium mining is too risky for communities and ecosystems and has poisoned enough generations New Mexicans already.

No new mining operations.

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jordon Metteba <j.imel.metteba@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:44 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Opposition

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February 9, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for giving the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Jordon Metteba and I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. I am a college student and a concerned individual.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would pollute groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer- the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna- which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive materials and waste that will inevitably destroy our communities.

We would like to remind you that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protested Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Suni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, and the Hopi tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its

boundaries, and continues to be maintained and revered by these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious reasons.

Mt. Taylor is a living ecosystem that is home to many integral animal and plant species of the region. There is no ethical or sustainable way of extracting a highly hazardous substance. Nuclear energy is not renewable energy because it drains water sources and produces tons of high-level radioactive waste. Heavily relying on a finite source will deplete the region of all its resources. This project will not just affect the surrounding communities, but will have detrimental global effects in the long run. By proceeding without the consultation or approval of the affected Indigenous and land-based communities, you are actively choosing to commit ecological genocide.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly reject continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pose a risk of generational illness and cancer. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Jordon Metteba

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jordan Olsen <jordolsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:47 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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January 9, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Honorable Director McCullough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

My name is Jordan Olsen, and I am a non-Native resident of Santa Fe and a researcher in materials science at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in Los Alamos, NM. I strongly oppose the proposed La Jara Mesa Project and wish to request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application. Mt. Taylor and the surrounding area is of great significance to many tribal nations. This hearing would be essential to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities have the option to give Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Firstly, it is well known that uranium mining poses significant health risks for human and non-human beings alike. The Keres-speaking people of Cochiti Pueblo, which is located downstream from LANL, know firsthand the destructive health and environmental impacts of the products of uranium mining. Once these materials are out of the ground, they inevitably get into the environment. Mined uranium was brought to LANL and enriched to be incorporated into nuclear weapons; decades later, members of neighboring villages and Pueblos still contend with the health hazards and environmental contamination caused by the processing and disposal of radioactive waste. The western Keres-speaking Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma have been directly harmed as a consequence of uranium mining for generations, and it is unconscionable that the people and the land be subject to any more adverse impacts of resource extraction. Laguna, for example, is still impacted by the pollution from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine, which closed in 1984. Chronic illnesses caused by radioactivity can take decades to develop, and it is clear that any new mining in the La Jara Mesa would be destructive and dangerous for many years to come.

Furthermore, the opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources, due to the water use necessary for in situ leaching (ISL) and the potential for groundwater contamination. The San Andres Glorieta Aquifer, which is the primary source of water for Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, is already highly contaminated, with its resources over appropriated. Any additional groundwater contamination from ISL mining would be very dangerous. While ISL is touted to reduce the risks of surface contamination by leaving ores positioned well beneath the surface, there remains significant risk of unrecovered dissolved uranium in the aquifer spreading beyond the controlled area of mining operations. New Mexico is in the midst of a historic drought, and this January was the fifth-hottest on record. We need to keep our water clean and available for living beings, not for hazardous mines.

Most importantly, the proposed mining project is on the boundary of the protected Traditional Cultural Property of Mt. Taylor. As the All Pueblo Council of Governors stated in [resolution 2024-12](#), “Mt. Taylor... is a sacred landscape, central to the cultural identity, traditional practices, and religious activities of numerous Pueblos and other tribal nations” and legally protected as a Traditional Cultural Property. Mt. Taylor holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos including Cochiti, and the Jicarilla Apaches. These peoples have fought long and hard to protect the land and prevent additional mining, and have been in opposition to the proposed new mine for over ten years. The mountain continues to be stewarded by many tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Pueblo Action Alliance, the All Pueblo Council of Governors, and many members of Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in New Mexico. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cause cancers. The people refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear projects, whether for weaponry or energy. The government must now focus on ensuring sufficient reparations to all communities impacted by environmental racism and the ongoing toxic legacy of nuclear colonialism.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. Let’s keep it that way. I urge you to not allow this project to go any further.

Sincerely,

Jordan Olsen

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Shakkri Ortega <kri.ortega2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:22 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Hearing Requested

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from kri.ortega2@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Committee,

As a New Mexican resident living in Albuquerque, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want *land remediation and clean up*, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities.

Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Kind regards,

-Shakkri Ortega

Albuquerque, NM

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: iusti remer-thamert <remerthaj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:13 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please grant a public hearing on the La Jara Mesa Mine

You don't often get email from remerthaj@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings Director McCullough,

As a New Mexico resident, I write to request a public hearing on the proposed re-opening of the La Jara Mesa Mine. I also want to uplift grave concerns for the re-opening of this mine as it is counter to calls from Indigenous communities that have already been impacted by this mine and for which there has been insufficient clean up. Moreover this is a Traditional Cultural Property, sacred to many Native communities and therefore a particularly detrimental to move forward with further negative impact on tribal communities. Rather than pursuing further extraction for an energy source that will continue to cause grave health impacts, please invest in land remediation, justice for those who have endured health impacts, and other clean up efforts.

With gratitude

•

All land claimed by the 'united states' is Indigenous land. I'm an uninvited guest on unceded Southern Tiwa land. You can learn whose land you are on here: native-land.ca/ If you're also a guest on Tiwa, Tewa or Towa land, or you benefit from the water, land, resources of this area, [make a guest offering to the Honor Native Land Tax.](#)

Feb. 9, 2007

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am David Salmanson, a former resident of Cibola County and I still return every summer to teach at the Cottonwood Gulch summer camp. I wrote a history dissertation on the Grants Uranium district to earn my PhD at University of Michigan. .

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

When I researched the uranium era, I was shocked to discover that, on average, a miner died every three months. And that was in an era when the federal regulations around mining were much stricter. As someone who was in the Grants-Gallup area in 1979, I find it hard to believe that new mining permits are being sought when the damage from the old mines and mining

activity have not yet been remediated. Further, despite plans for remediation, the tendency of mining companies to declare bankruptcy and avoid their responsibilities as outlined in their remediation plans means **no mining should take place unless sufficient funds to enable a complete and thorough remediation are deposited in escrow accounts prior to any development.** The people of New Mexico and the taxpayers of the United States should not bear the cost of clean up due to mining companies' fecklessness. The people of McKinley county have waited over over 40 years for the Churchrock tailings dam disaster to be remediated, they cannot rely on promises for future remediation that are unlikely to be fulfilled.

I stand with the Indigenous and frontline communities that strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
David Salmanson

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Adri Sanchez <adri@homebuyingabq.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:32 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Uranium Mines Rejection

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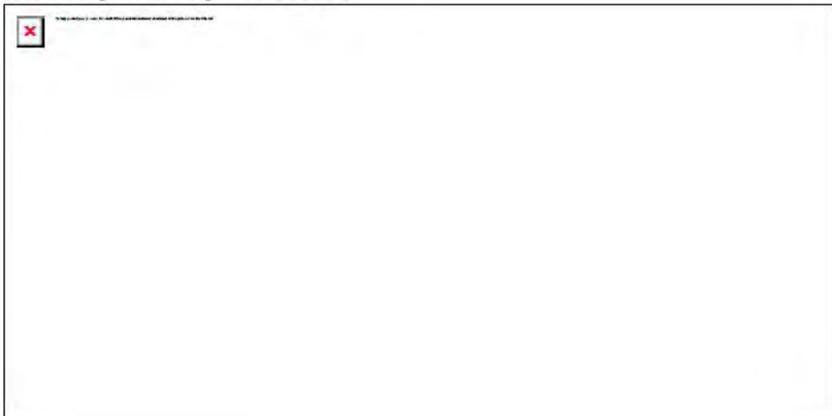
Committee,

As a New Mexican resident, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want *land remediation and clean up*, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities. Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's official designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Thank you for your time,



Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Ann Schmidt <aeschmidt58@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 1:22 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Application

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To: Erin McCullough, Director, Mining & Minerals Division

Dear Ms. McCullough,

I am writing to ask you to reject the application submitted by Laramide Resources, Inc. to open uranium mining in the vicinity of Mount Taylor.

This proposal is unacceptable for so many reasons.

1) There are reportedly HUNDREDS of unremediated uranium mines that affect native communities, as well as communities off reservations, already. These must be cleaned up before any new uranium mining can take place. At this time there is no feasible way to do that which does not endanger people, water sources, wildlife, and land as the radioactive material will have to be stored somewhere. Where will these materials be stored that is SAFE? Does such a place exist?

2). Mining, transportation, storage, & milling of uranium create scenarios of likely exposure to all of the above-mentioned entities to toxic and radioactive materials. I refer you to recall the disastrous Church Rock uranium mill spill in 1979 in which tons of radioactive millings and waste were released into the surrounding and extended environment, some of which places are permanently contaminated. How do you propose to prevent anything like this from occurring in the future?

3). The mining of uranium is done with the purposes of creating nuclear weapons and fueling nuclear power plants. Neither of these are acceptable endeavors and both endanger the future of humanity and of this Earth. Corporations are interested in these projects because at this time huge profits can be made. But that could change. And will they stay around to clean up their messes when they're done making their money? Have they EVER?

I am urging you to support:

- No new mining of uranium or reopening of old mines in the state of NM.
- Justice for impacted communities who suffer from the effects of mining.
- Land remediation and clean-up that does not create further safety hazards for ANY community.
- Honoring of the significance of Traditional Cultural Property designation of the Mount Taylor area.

- Listening to the wishes of nearby tribal communities who could be affected by such a project and who hold the proposed affected land sacred.

Please do the right thing and abide by the wishes of New Mexico communities by rejecting this proposal.

Sincerely,
Ann Schmidt


Winslow, AZ 86047

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Abby Shepard <abbymyshep@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:59 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for In-Person Hearing for La Jara Mesa Project

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a young concerned citizen based in Santa Fe and an active community member with multiple friends who have deep ties to the sacred land near Mount Taylor.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer – the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna – is already highly contaminated and appropriated. This mine would only make that contamination worse, and the area even more water stressed. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

I would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I stand with Indigenous and frontline communities in strongly opposing continued resource extraction in the Southwest United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Please schedule an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application for La Jara Mesa Project.

Sincerely,
Abby Shepard
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Mariah Simplicio <mariahsimplicio6@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:18 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] STRONGLY Oppose La Jara Mesa Mining

You don't often get email from mariahsimplicio6@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I'm a Pueblo New Mexican and I STRONGLY oppose the re-opening of a Uranium mine in Cibola County. Is it ridiculous that is a sentence I need to write in 2026 given the disastrous health effects Uranium mines have ALREADY had on my people and on our lands.

<https://www.vox.com/21514587/navajo-nation-new-mexico-radioactive-uranium-spill>

I urge the State to listen to the original stewards of the land that must live with the environmental consequences of Uranium and NONE of the profits.

Sincerely,

Mariah Simplicio

505-600-9180

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Studio Soothe <studiosoothe@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:49 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Uranium Mines are bad for human health

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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It will take 30 nuclear power plants to run an ai that will always less than equivalent to human biologic and conscience complexity. I run on lettuce.

Committee,

As a New Mexican resident living in Albuquerque, I reject the intent to open any uranium mines in Cibola or anywhere in New Mexico.

New Mexican residents deserve a public hearing on the matter.

You will see that the overwhelming majority of us strongly reject the opening of any new mines or any old legacy uranium mines. We want *land remediation and clean up*, and we want reparations for impacted neighboring communities. Furthermore, we want you to honor the significance of Mt. Taylor's designation as a Traditional Cultural Property. And overall with good faith, we need you to listen to, respect and protect the tribal communities around Mt. Taylor.

Sincerely,
Bernadette Jobs
Albuquerque, NM

Studio Soothe

<https://www.studiosoothebernadette.com>

757-504-3251

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: stockton505@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:06 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cmon!!

[You don't often get email from stockton505@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Sent from my iPhone

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Stuart Sussman <lonestars@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:10 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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7 February 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. Although I am not a resident of the area, and have no tribal affiliations, I have visited the area, first, and notably, as a young child. A photograph of me gazing out the window of a abandoned adobe structure is still a treasured family memento. Various visits to the area have highlighted my life since then.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now, in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources, which are already highly contaminated and appropriated. The environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste are too great a risk to the people who live in the area.

The proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I, and other allies, strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. I reject the sacrifices demanded for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and insist that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Stuart Sussman

Menlo Park, California

Stuart Sussman

dept.8 (official media)

415.867.5586

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Laini Szostkowski <laini@kclcmontessori.org>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:04 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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January 9, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Honorable Director McCullough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

My name is Alaina Szostkowski, and I am a non-Native resident of Santa Fe and an educator at Keres Children's Learning Center in Cochiti Pueblo, NM. I strongly oppose the proposed La Jara Mesa Project and wish to request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application. Mt. Taylor and the surrounding area is of great significance to many tribal nations. This hearing would be essential to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities have the option to give Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Firstly, it is well known that uranium mining poses significant health risks for human and non-human beings alike. The Keres-speaking people of Cochiti Pueblo, which is located downstream from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), know firsthand the destructive health and environmental impacts of the products of uranium mining. Once these materials are out of the ground, they inevitably get into the environment. Enriched uranium helped build the nuclear weapons of LANL; decades later, members of neighboring villages and Pueblos still contend with the health hazards and environmental contamination caused by the processing and disposal of radioactive waste. The western Keres-speaking Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma have been directly damaged by the consequences of uranium mining for generations, and it is unconscionable that the people and the land be subject to any more adverse impacts of resource extraction. Laguna, for example, is still impacted by the pollution from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine, which closed in 1984. Chronic illnesses caused by radioactivity can take decades to develop, and it is clear that any new mining in the La Jara Mesa would be destructive for many years to come.

Furthermore, the opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources, due to the water use necessary for in situ leaching (ISL) and the potential for

groundwater contamination. The San Andres Glorieta Aquifer, which is the primary source of water for Acoma and Laguna Pueblos, is already highly contaminated, with its resources over appropriated. Any additional groundwater contamination from ISL mining would be very dangerous. While ISL is touted to reduce the risks of surface contamination by leaving ores positioned well beneath the surface, there remains significant risk of unrecovered dissolved uranium in the aquifer spreading beyond the controlled area of mining operations. New Mexico is in the midst of a historic drought, and this January was the fifth-hottest on record. We need to keep our water clean and available for living beings, not for hazardous mines.

Most importantly, the proposed mining project is on the boundary of the protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) of Mt. Taylor. As the All Pueblo Council of Governors stated in resolution 2024-12, “Mt. Taylor... is a sacred landscape, central to the cultural identity, traditional practices, and religious activities of numerous Pueblos and other tribal nations” and legally protected as a Traditional Cultural Property. Mt. Taylor holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos including Cochiti, and the Jicarilla Apaches. These peoples have fought long and hard to protect the land and prevent additional mining, and have been in opposition to the proposed new mine for over ten years. The mountain continues to be stewarded by many tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Pueblo Action Alliance, the All Pueblo Council of Governors, and many members of Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in New Mexico. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. The people refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry. The government must ensure sufficient reparations to all communities impacted by environmental racism and the ongoing toxic legacy of nuclear colonialism.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. Let’s keep it that way. I urge you to not allow this project to go any further.

Sincerely,

Alaina (Laini) Szostkowski



Laini Szostkowski
English-Speaking Elementary
Montessori Guide
laini@kclcmontessori.org
(505) 527-0470

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Diana Waggoner <dfaraway47@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:35 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine project

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To: Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Ms. McCullough:

I am writing to oppose approval of the application of Laramide Resources, Inc., for its Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan regarding the La Jara Mesa Uranium mine. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico in 40 years for good reasons. The Pueblo of Acoma and the All Pueblo Council of Governors oppose this project, since this region has long been impacted by the legacy of uranium mining and milling. With numerous uranium mines and a large open pit mine operating in the Pueblo of Laguna from the 1950's to their closure in 1979, the Pueblo and surrounding communities have been devastated from radioactive contamination in the air, water, soil, and plant life. This resulted in an influx of chronic illnesses such as various types of cancers, kidney diseases and failure, pulmonary fibrosis and so much more. These communities have not gotten the justice they deserve even 40 years later. There has not been effective and scientifically proven clean up measures implemented currently. These communities cannot afford another dangerous extractive project near tribal traditional homelands. Instead, remediation and cleanup of the impacted areas should be a priority.

Sincerely,

Diana Waggoner

Los Angeles, CA 90019

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jade Waskow <jadewaskow4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:21 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on The La Jara Mesa Mining Application

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Good evening,

I am writing to provide public comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

I live in NM, have lived here my whole life, and intend to continue building my future here. Because of that, it is important to me that we do everything we can to preserve the land, air, and water for future generations and that we uphold and respect the sovereignty and rights of the Indigenous people of New Mexico.

I am deeply concerned about and oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and am asking that there be an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application.

I believe that this is important in order to ensure that the communities in the area, particularly Indigenous communities, are able to express their concerns and for the true cost of this mining to be taken into account.

There hasn't been Uranium mining here for 40 years and yet our rural and Indigenous are still dealing with the devastating health consequences of the mining, the waste deposits from the mining, and the continued lack of clean up of abandoned mines. Steps haven't been taken to right or even acknowledge the harm that has already been caused from previous mining; it is cruel and unjust to compound that harm by opening more mines to create more pollution and danger.

I am opposed to our state being treated only as a place for extraction at the expense of the people who live here.

Sincerely,

-- Jade Waskow
(she/her/hers)

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: A. Webb <lovelydove97@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:43 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on The La Jara Mesa Mining Application

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February 9th, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a lifelong New Mexico resident, who has a strong interest in the preservation of New Mexican nature and respecting the rights of Indigenous groups in the Southwest United States.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and remain prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our

government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Aline Webb

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Tony Bertucci <tbtonybertucci8@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 3:01 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a concerned resident of Cibola county.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued

resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Anthony Bertucci

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Victoria Canby <victoriagcanby@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:37 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Cc: Fox, Chelsea, EMNRD; Roybal-Chavez, Drew, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Project

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2/10/2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Erin McCullough & Mining & Mineral Division,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining

Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

I am an enrolled member of the Diné Nation. I'm an educator, an artist & Indigenous activist. I have many family throughout New Mexico that worked mining the lands and suffer from extreme health consequences.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Over the last year I have researched the impacts of nuclear energy and weapons for a mural I'm painting about nuclear colonialism in San Francisco, California. During my research process, it's been devastating to learn about the recklessness of mining companies throughout the Diné Nations lands and the surrounding New Mexico lands. So many suffer from illness & mines continue to leak, left abandoned. It seems unconscionable to ask to start this destructive process up again on tribal lands after all the damage the mining industry has done. Uranium is not meant to be taken from the earth and should not be considered a clean energy source considering its remains radioactive & dangerous over 25,000 years.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Victoria Canby

Enrolled Diné Nation

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Esperanza <esperanza@earthcarenm.org>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:34 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Cc: YUCCA@EarthCare
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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Dear Erin McCullough and Whom Else It May Concern in the Mining and Minerals Division,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am writing on behalf of Youth United for Climate Crisis Action. We strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given the opportunity to provide Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years, yet the state continues to struggle with the toxic legacy of this industry. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

As an organization made up of Indigenous and frontline community members, we strongly oppose the way that extractive industry's disproportionately harm our communities. We do not want employment that passes down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy/weaponry. We demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining. Please schedule an in-person hearing regarding La Jara Mesa Project.

Sincerely,
Esperanza Chairez

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Boden Franklin <bodenf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:18 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a lifelong resident of New Mexico and currently a student at the University of New Mexico researching uranium extraction and the revival of the nuclear industry.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued

resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Boden Franklin

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jana Gunnell <grateful2b@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:31 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Dr. Jana Gunnell, a retired physician who has spent my career with the New Mexico Department of Health, the Indian Health Service and the Navajo Nation Department of Health. Of the 30+ years I worked for those agencies, 25 were spent in the Grants Mineral Belt.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project. I request an in-person and zoom-remote hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. Hearings must occur sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years, and yet the environmental and health impacts of that mining remain current and will persist. One specific example: the village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, communities were unaware of the chronic health impacts and environmental degradation and contamination. Those impacts have been revealed through the decades following the mine closure, and are still prevalent in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The San Andres Glorieta Aquifer, the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, is already contaminated and over-appropriated.

I am also concerned about the **environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.**

The proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. **As a non-Native person who has lived in these communities for decades, I have developed a deep appreciation of how critical the relationship between the people and the land is to physical, mental and spiritual health. I have seen the environmental devastation wrought from the previous uranium mining in this area reverberate through three generations.**

I stand with the Indigenous and frontline communities who strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. That includes me. **We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.**

Sincerely,
Jana Gunnell, MD, MPH
Taos, NM 87571

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Theresa Lewis <theresa.lewis@cottonwoodgulch.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:23 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am an environmental educator and director of school programs for a local non-profit based in Albuquerque; our organization takes countless youth groups to Mount Taylor each year.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, Native communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Theresa

Theresa Lewis (she/her)
Director of School & Community Programs
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions
www.cottonwoodgulch.org

~ ABQ, NM 87114



505-248-0563 (Albuquerque Office, mid-August through May)
505-862-7503 (Thoreau Office, June through mid-August)

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: emily louise <emilylouiseemail@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:13 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Emily Riley, who has been living in this area for the past 6 months.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding

Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses,

and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the

boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Emily Riley

Sent from my iPhone

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Windy Melton <aloha420wsm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:00 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Windy Melton, a mother and community member.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The detrimental effects on health and environment are well documented in 2026, why are we going backwards half a century? Aren't we supposed to do better for future generations? The occurrence of microtia/atresia alone was studied in the area as a result of these practices.

The opening of a new mine in would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We are an avid outdoor, homeschool, family. We moved to this area for the natural beauty and adventure opportunities. The mining operations marr the landscapes, and pollute the local areas - people, animals, environment - we can do better as humans. Not take us generations back in time. My own child was born

with a defect linked to such operations, please do not burden more children and families with these lifelong issues.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Windy Melton

Shawn Melton

Roxanne Melton

Danica Melton

Ziva Melton

Desmond Melton

Allison Melton

Jordie Melton

February 9, 2026

ATTENTION:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

REGARDING:

La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Dear Erin, the MMD team and the New Mexico State Legislature and Administration,

I am Roy Montibon, a proud New Mexican resident, taxpayer, homeowner, business owner and voter. I have a Master's Degree in Anthropology from Harvard University and am currently a student at the Technology CEO Program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. My ancestors are Pacific Islanders. In my home town of Las Vegas, New Mexico, I have served as Chair of the Police Advisory Commission through six police chiefs, the Las Vegas Police, Firefighters and City Employees Union Board, and Chair of the Arts & Culture District. At the State level I have been involved in economic development (EDD, Food, Hunger and Ag + private economic development projects in healthcare and the arts); and public policy work (New Mexico First and the Governor's Policy Council and on Ag, Food and Hunger); and have supported the Outdoor Recreation industry in New Mexico for years. I run the *Entrepreneurs for Social Impact* program at United World College. I am an artist, designer, entrepreneur, business executive, educator and inventor.

I am opposed to the La Jara Mesa Project for several reasons:

1. Uranium mining is extremely dangerous to the health and well-being of the miners, their families and surrounding communities. New Mexico has a legacy of generational mining-caused cancers, plus lung and kidney diseases due to airborne radioactive particles, toxic soil and dust brought home by miners and other mine-related workers, contaminating their homes and poisoning their families. Placing this generational human suffering onto hard working New Mexicans is completely unacceptable. There are *hundreds* of ways to facilitate much needed economic

development, and diversify our economy, (as Colorado has successfully done), in this state without harming and killing people, wildlife and wrecking our shared environment (UCLA Promise Institute for Human Rights, 2021).

2. The people who are harmed have a stake in their communities and in this state. The outsiders bringing harm to the people of New Mexico have *no stake* in our communities or our future. They extract, profit, fold and leave the state. This model of extractive and exploitative economic development is based in colonialist models of conquest (Gomez 2022). How many times will we allow our Native neighbors to be colonized? This pattern of sociopathic exploitation must be stopped. Permanently (Blackhawk 2023). We citizens and leaders of New Mexico must become much more imaginative and creative to pursue economic development without committing *slow suicide*.
3. In 2026, nuclear power itself is unnecessary. Will La Jara Mesa and other nearby mining projects benefit New Mexicans with enhanced local energy production? No, it will not, as New Mexicans don't want toxic nuclear power plants, large or "small", plus the radioactive waste that they produce, in our backyards. The WIPP facility was not designed to handle high-level nuclear waste, despite the fact that the entire nation thinks that New Mexico is their convenient dumping ground. We are no one's dumping ground. We don't want radioactive waste from Indian Point or any other nuclear power plant. Since the US government has, for the last several decades, been unable to solve the problem of long-term nuclear waste storage, people from other states can bury their nuclear waste in their own backyards. (DOE 2023)
4. New Mexico is one of the most beautiful states in America, why do we continuously make decisions to despoil our natural beauty and species diversity? New Mexico is also one of the two sunniest states in the US, which means the State of New Mexico should be prioritizing solar energy, including community micro-grids which are perfect for large, dispersed, rural communities. In addition, New Mexico and the entire Southwest US have been suffering from drought and wildfires (UC Boulder 2024). Solar arrays can be installed above farm land, creating shade to mitigate evaporation from the soil, lowering surface temperatures and providing an additional source of regular income to support our independent farmers. Entire sections of the state are also windy, which is an opportunity for the State to encourage ranch-scale,

community-scale and large-scale wind power generation. Lastly, the central part of the state is a volcanic / geothermal zone. Why are we not prioritizing the development of clean geothermal energy in that region?

5. Nuclear fission power not only requires the dangerous mining of radioactive minerals, with its attendant environmental consequences, i.e., land destruction, ground water contamination, toxic air pollution, high long-term costs for medical care, expensive toxic waste storage for tens of thousands of years, plus the multi-generational costs of clean up left to New Mexico taxpayers (NRC 2020). Can our taxes be invested into economic development that truly moves us forward, (such as K-12 education, higher education, technology, science-based entrepreneurs, healthcare, child care, food security and local agriculture), instead of things that are forever expensive, wasteful and backward-looking such as Superfund sites? New Mexico is already in the midst of a healthcare crisis, yet the NM MMD is considering increasing the burden on hospitals, doctors and nurses—for decades. One arm of the State government claims to be working on solving our healthcare crisis, yet another arm is seriously considering exacerbating that very problem through uranium mining.
6. We are a state with limited resources. Continuing to base our economy on resource extraction is not only vastly more expensive in the long run than any economic benefits we will derive, it is ecocide.
7. It is likely that some portion of the uranium will be used to run nuclear reactors to power AI data centers for Microsoft, Google, Anthropic, OpenAI and other AI companies who want to build new nuclear power plants *just to run their data centers*. AI data centers consume enormous amounts of energy and clean water. Large swaths of our entire nation are facing a clean drinking water crisis. In addition, AI itself represents many threats to humanity. AI powered by “limitless” energy from nuclear power plants will be unleashed and unstoppable as an existential threat to all life on earth (Yudkowsky and Soares 2015).
8. When we speak of nuclear non-proliferation, most think of the New START treaty that just expired with Russia, ICBMs, MIRVs, B-52s and B-2 Spirit bombers. But we should all keep in mind that the inadvertent loss of radioactive waste materials can

be used by hostile nation-states and terrorists to make dirty bombs (i.e., highly lethal “suitcase” or container weapons.) This material needs to be secured for thousands of years. Such security is expensive. Thus, going down the uranium mining path for use in dirty nuclear reactors is antithetical to nuclear non-proliferation efforts. With near weekly threats of nuclear war against us from Dmitry Medvedev, plus threats from Iran and North Korea, all US political leaders need to ask themselves this question: *whose side am I really on?*

9. Do the executives at Laramide Resources, (a company based in Canada), care about any of the above? Most likely, they want to profit off of the long-term suffering and environmental destruction of New Mexico (i.e., Native Americans, other New Mexicans, our air, our water, our wildlife, our agriculture, our outdoor recreation industry and more.) Mining executives consider all of the destruction they cause as an *inconsequential externality*—something that they are not legally or morally on the hook for to prevent, mitigate or rectify. After they wreak havoc on our people and our environment, they will simply leave and absolve themselves of all responsibility. This is standard operating procedure for mining companies. This is unacceptable.

In summary, the State of New Mexico, and specifically the Mining and Minerals Division, need to think deeply and seriously consider the long term consequences of what may appear to be an “quick and easy” path to economic development. The uranium mining option will actually impede other, far smarter, cleaner, healthier and open-ended options for economic development across our state by damaging our brand as a beautiful state and further constraining outdoor recreation, tourism and agriculture.

Best regards,

Roy Montibon

CEO/CCO, Research Principal Investigator, MPI,
(Authenticity, Provenance, Post-Quantum Cybersecurity)
President / Creative Director, The Montibon Company
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roy@montibon.com

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Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Bailey Nichols <bailey1nichols@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:18 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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February 10th, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Bailey Nichols, I recently moved nearby this beautiful area and feel deeply that the natural beauty of this land, as well as the health of the community, should be protected from this operation.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna—which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, a Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and

the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional and cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Bailey Nichols

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Rachelle Pena <rachelle.pena@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:33 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am an Emergency Department Nurse based in Albuquerque who takes countless residences of new Mexico with severe long term health impacts from poor regulation uranium mining

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, Native communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Fiana Shapiro <imaginethehours@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:37 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Laramide- La Jara Mine Project CI008RN

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I am writing this letter as public comment on the Laramide- La Jara Mine Project CI008RN. I am opposed to project, which proposes to establish new uranium mining.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico in 40 years, and it is not acceptable to begin it again now. People in the region have suffered a large number of medical consequences due to past mining operations impacting their ground and surface waters, soils, and ecosystems. Many of the affected people are indigenous, from pueblos who have submitted statements strongly opposing this mining operation. Prior mining has not been properly cleaned up and continues to be detrimental to the landscape and people.

The Pueblos need to be listened to and this new mining operation cannot happen.

Fiana Shapiro
New Mexican

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Sena Song <1sena.song@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 3:02 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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February 7, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a community member and care worker in New Mexico. I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Sena Song

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Julie Tumblety <juliet@montibon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:15 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on Laramide Resources, Inc.'s Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan for the proposed La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

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February 10, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Dear Director McCullough,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Laramide Resources, Inc.'s Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan for the proposed La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am writing to express my strong opposition to this project and to formally request that all public meetings and hearings related to this permit application be held both in person and virtually, with the ability for attendees to sign up to provide public comment online and in person.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine Project and request a meaningful public hearing process that ensures surrounding Indigenous and frontline communities are afforded **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent**, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for more than 40 years. Yet Indigenous and land-based communities continue to live with the devastating environmental and health consequences of many uranium mining operations including the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. When that mine closed in 1984, communities were not informed of the long-term health impacts, chronic illnesses, cancers, and environmental contamination that would surface decades later and remain prevalent today in 2026. These harms have not been adequately remediated or addressed.

The proposed reopening of uranium mining in this region presents serious risks to groundwater and surface water resources. Of particular concern is the extraction of groundwater from the San Andres–

Glorieta Aquifer, the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, which is already highly appropriated and contaminated. Additionally, the transportation, processing, and storage of radioactive materials and waste pose serious environmental and public health risks to communities far beyond the mine site.

The proposed project is located within the boundaries of Mount Taylor, a designated Traditional Cultural Property protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. Mount Taylor holds deep spiritual, cultural, and historical significance for the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Zuni, multiple Rio Grande Pueblos, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. This area continues to be actively used for cultural, ceremonial, and religious practices, and these protections must be fully honored.

While I do not live within the immediate footprint of the proposed La Jara Mesa mine, I live in northeast New Mexico, a region that has also been impacted by uranium pollution in its watershed. I have witnessed firsthand how radioactive contamination does not “respect” jurisdictional or geographic boundaries. For many years, I have advocated alongside the Tularosa Downwinders who endured decades of denial before finally being heard about the health impacts of the Trinity nuclear test. As Downwinder advocate Tina Cordova has stated, there are “hundreds and hundreds of families... displaying four and five generations of cancer.” The radioactive plume from Trinity reached northeast New Mexico, making clear that nuclear and uranium-related contamination extends far beyond the physical borders of a mine or test site.

In this context, federal efforts to restart uranium mining in New Mexico are deeply insulting to the people who have been sickened by and have died due to radiation exposure and are still fighting for recognition, healthcare, and justice. It is especially troubling that New Mexico state legislators have advocated for compensation for Downwinders harmed by nuclear testing, while the State of New Mexico simultaneously considers permitting new uranium mining projects. This contradiction perpetuates a harmful cycle in which communities are exposed to radiation at every stage—from uranium extraction to weapons and energy development—without adequate protection or accountability. New Mexico must not continue a “cradle to grave” relationship with the military-industrial complex at the expense of its people.

Given the scale and duration of this proposed project, anticipated to operate for up to 20 years and transport up to 12–15 truckloads of uranium daily, it is imperative that the public participation process be fully accessible and transparent. I respectfully request that EMNRD and the Mining and Minerals Division:

- Hold **multiple hybrid public meetings** with both in-person and virtual attendance options;
- Allow **online and in-person sign-ups** for those wishing to provide verbal public comment;
- Provide sufficient notice and clear participation instructions to ensure meaningful engagement.

Indigenous and frontline communities across New Mexico strongly oppose the reopening of legacy uranium mines and the continuation of extractive projects that perpetuate environmental racism and generational harm. The people of New Mexico deserve safe and sustainable economic opportunities that do not pass down illness, cancer, and contamination to future generations. We refuse to be sacrificed for nuclear energy and weapons development and call on our government to prioritize justice, remediation, and accountability for communities impacted by the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for ensuring a fair, accessible, and inclusive public process.

Sincerely,

J. Tumblety

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Yoma Wilson <ywilson@unm.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:12 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am currently a UNM MFA student and citizen of Albuquerque. I was born and raised in Taos, went to college at UNM for Civil Engineering, and after graduation lived in Fukushima, Japan for 5 years.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

As I mentioned above, I grew up in Taos and lived in Fukushima. For my whole life I have lived in areas that have been affected by nuclear colonialism and have seen the effects of damage done to the environment. When I was a child, I remember the sun dyed pink by the Cerro Grande Fire, a controlled burn that should have been containable were it not for the presence of Los Alamos National Labs and the need to divert the fire away from nuclear facilities and into indigenous land. In Fukushima I witnessed the

aftereffects of the nuclear disaster at the Dai Ichi Nuclear Reactor in 2011 which led to many people on the coast having to be evacuated for years. The coastal area around the towns of Namie and Minami-Soma are now open and deemed "safe" by the Japanese government but remain ghost towns that are unable to recover physically or economically from the nuclear contamination. I love my home of New Mexico and would love to raise a family here, but I worry that with this encouragement of new nuclear mining in the state without proper remediation for past accidents and contamination and a lack of research on how badly the contamination is on NM land, I may not be able to have children nor raise them in a safe environment that is safe from cancer.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Yoma Wilson

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Yeshe <yeshesalz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:28 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
Attachments: Letter.pdf

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am Yesh Salz, a New Mexico Resident, Co Director of Restoring Lifeways and MFA candidate at the Institute of American Indian Arts and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Yesh Salz

February 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Lauren Meiklejohn, I am a third generation New Mexican. My grandfather came to New Mexico from Boston in the 1930s to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His work during that period was to support the pueblos and tribal nations as they drafted their constitutions.

It is in the spirit of his work and respect of the autonomy of our pueblos and tribal nations that I ask you to stop the La Jara Mesa Mining permit. Over the course of my life in New Mexico I have seen first hand the devastation that the toxic environmental damage has done to the land, water and people in New Mexico, especially the pueblos and tribal communities.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, these communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and are still prevalent in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer-- the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna-- which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. There is also concern about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of

radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Despite the injustices they have endured over time, our pueblo and tribal friends and neighbors continually open the door to their homes on feast days and share the cultural wealth, art and knowledge with us relative new comers to this magnificent land. In that spirit of generosity and solidarity that I ask you to please deny this permit.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,


Lauren Meiklejohn
Albuquerque, NM

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: River Conway <ekconway@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 11:22 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Comment

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Hello,

Thank you for extending the deadline for public comment on this project.

I understand that as a resident of New Mexico and Colorado, I may benefit in some way from the profits gained from mining uranium on the La Jara Mesa near Mount Taylor. However the costs of extracting these resources from Native lands are heavier than we can truly bare.

Uranium mining for nuclear energy and weapons manufacturing is a profit-driven initiative that incentivizes waste and destruction. These norms created by the military industrial complex, generations of imperial domination, and capitalist resource extraction, incentivize greed, waste, and unbelievably irresponsible resource management.

Given our history of being a test ground for the abuse of nuclear power, New Mexico has a unique opportunity to help the rest of the world see how we can do better.

We are not luddites, we are responsible stewards of our land. We know that scarcity, intimidation, and fear is not our truth.

We will not be forced to sell our resources to the insatiable capitalist powers that do not have our best interest at heart.

This may be one of our last opportunities to choose sustainability over resource extraction, waste, and destruction.

Please take a stand for the future generations on our Native land and help humanity move back in the direction of progress and respect.

Regards,

Emily "River" Conway
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Tina Davila <tinadav@myctl.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 10:36 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Requesting public hearing regarding uranium mining proposal

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I am a New Mexico resident (since 1974) I live in Santa Fe County.

I support the request for a public hearing regarding Laramie resources plan to open uranium mining on La Jara Mesa. It is important that this be considered seriously and not fast tracked through the process, as it would have an effect on Pueblo people and the environment.

Tina Davila


Santa Fe NM 87506

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Chad Erik <chaderik@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:51 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan

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ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Chad Rooney who does quite a bit of hiking in this area. I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguata and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguata Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining. Future generations are watching and will look back on this misinformed and dangerous mining reactivation.

Sincerely,
Chad Rooney

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jamie <jamie.jamiep1a@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 8:09 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voicing my opposition to La Jara Mine & resuming uranium mining at large

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Jamie Phillips and I am an outdoor educator and conservationist that works with youth – particularly Hispanic, Indigenous, and other disenfranchised youth of color – to reconnect them to our lands and waters, across the state and country.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I have been blessed to spend extended time in the wilderness of Cibola County, backpacking along the Continental Divide Trail, exploring El Malpais National Park, and learning many important lessons in my time in Dine Bikeyah. This place is sacred and scarred; it is hurting and healing at once, but will not be able to heal if disastrous projects like resuming uranium mining at La Jara and elsewhere are to pass.

I stand alongside the Indigenous and frontline communities who strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Jamie Phillips

--

Jamie Phillips

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love.
We love only what we understand.
We will understand only what we are taught*."

-Baba Dioum

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Joanna Kaufman <joanna.r.kaufman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 5:27 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Opposing La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine – Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan

You don't often get email from joanna.r.kaufman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Director McCullough and Mining and Minerals Division Staff,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed reopening of the La Jara Mesa uranium mine near Mount Taylor in Cibola County.

This project presents unacceptable risks to groundwater, public health, cultural resources, and long-term environmental integrity. The plan's projection of 12–15 truckloads of uranium ore per day for up to twenty years introduces ongoing contamination and transportation hazards, compounded by the lack of transparency regarding the location of the offsite processing mill.

Mount Taylor's designation as a Traditional Cultural Property under the National Historic Preservation Act recognizes its profound cultural, spiritual, and historical importance. Proceeding with uranium extraction in this area directly undermines those protections and disregards the clear opposition expressed by the Pueblo of Acoma and the All Pueblo Council of Governors.

New Mexico continues to live with the legacy of uranium mining—contaminated water, unresolved reclamation failures, and disproportionate health impacts on Indigenous and rural communities. Reintroducing uranium mining in this region repeats these harms under the false promise of modern safeguards that have repeatedly proven insufficient over time.

I urge the Mining and Minerals Division to reject this Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan in full. At minimum, no approvals should proceed without comprehensive environmental review, full disclosure of processing and waste handling plans, and meaningful Tribal consultation—but the cumulative risks and cultural impacts warrant denial.

New Mexico should not sacrifice its water, land, and living communities for short-term extraction.

Thank you for considering this public comment.

Sincerely,

Joanna Kaufman
Registered Nurse
Santa Fe, NM

t: (505) 795-4698

e: joanna.r.kaufman@gmail.com

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Cirrelda Snider-Bryan <cirrelda@laalamedapress.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 7:56 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Application -- Written Comment

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To: Erin McCullough, Director
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Date: February 11, 2026

Dear Erin McCullough,

As a voter and resident of Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties in NM since 1978, I urge you to deny Laramide Resources, Inc. the permit to reopen the La Jara Mesa uranium mine.

As a lay person, I have learned about the effects of radioactive contamination of the air, soil, water, and plant life that comes from releasing uranium from the ground. One of my sources of information comes from the Southwest Research and Information Center. I learned about "half-life" of radioactive substances from uranium, meaning that radiation continues exponentially for thousands of years, untold generations. The communities around the Grants mineral belt have long suffered from radioactive dust and waste from uranium mining, and the reason the mines were closed 40 years ago is to stop the continued poisoning of those communities and those lands.

I have read the statement made in December, 2024 by Pueblo of Acoma, and wholeheartedly support their reasons and views to oppose the mining again. I join them to strongly oppose the reopening of uranium mining in their immediate area, with all the effects coming from not only mining, but transporting such large amounts of ore. Pueblo of Acoma is not the only traditional Native community to be affected, as you know. Pueblo of Laguna and the Navajo Nation would also be affected.

Mine tailings require the precious resource, water. Other mining operations require water. And in New Mexico, water is scarce. Pueblo of Acoma also brought this up, knowing full well the scarcity of their aquifer and how it is already overdrawn.

Is this fair to the people who have lived on these fragile lands for centuries, many generations? No it is not fair. That is why the Traditional Cultural Property designation was determined under the 2009 Historic Preservation Act, as you well know.

My own experience as an educator at the NM Museum of Natural History & Science included teaching about groundwater in my programs. I learned a lot from Aquifer Mapping Project at the Bureau of Geology at NM Tech, who partnered with programs I created. I also have learned a lot from attending many water

hearings and information sessions throughout the last decade. Our groundwater use in New Mexico has overtaxed the supply. Allowing mining of any kind is pushing our limited supply to run out more quickly, but to allow uranium mining is to allow a “forever” poison to enter into the already compromised water system. The State of New Mexico has to come to terms with our water scarcity before it is totally squandered, for our historic cultural communities as well as newcomers, living and investing in their lives in New Mexico.

We look to you, science-based gatekeepers of the natural resources of our state, to regulate and keep not only the minerals, but our water, air, plant and animal resources **safe** for generations to come.

Thus, I urge you to deny this new mining of uranium. Please count my voice with all the others.

Thank you for your time.

-Cirrelda

Cirrelda Snider-Bryan

505 948-1615


Albuquerque, NM 87114

Bernalillo County

cirrelda@laalamedapress.com

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Graham Unverzagt <graham.zot21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 10:28 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ATTN: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

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February 11th 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Graham Unverzagt and I was raised in Grants graduated from GHS in 2012.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated.

We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor,

which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States.

The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Graham Unverzagt

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: S M <ssaavedra582@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 3:40 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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My name is Selena Saavedra I am writing this email to oppose the reopening of the uranium mine in cibola county

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Brenda Bailey-White <beebambu@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2026 12:48 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop the Reopening of this Uranium Mine

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Erin McCullough,
Director, Mining and Minerals Division:

I vehemently oppose the re-opening of a uranium mine in Cibola County. The proposed mine is in close proximity to Mt. Taylor/Tsoodzil, a site of deep spiritual significance to Indigenous New Mexican tribes. Your role in restorative justice for Indigenous communities is to stop this project.

We can agree NM already has plenty of uranium-polluted land from past extraction activities: 3 U Superfund cleanup sites, ~650 abandoned mines (^ on Navajo/Diné land), & 8+ mills. With the newest Superfund site receiving critical funding approval just last year, I see no sound basis for resuming mining. (I am referring to NE Church Rock Mine, near Gallup, the \$63M agreement on 08/2025 for a 10-yr project to move 1M CY of waste to UNC Mill Site.) The US government's record on managing uranium pollution remediation has been slow and inadequate. There is no evidence that the current administration in DC will improve circumstances.

As a former Sandia Labs subject matter expert on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), I know all too well the failings of federal and state policies in the Stockpile Stewardship history of uranium use. I know that the Department of Energy has reversed its position on nuclear energy, and, despite dismissive efforts to claim otherwise, I know the harsh reality of our inadequate efforts in nuclear waste storage safety.

Clean soil and potable water are a human right. Past pollution from uranium mining continues to impact the lives of many New Mexicans, and this proposal is additional insult to injury. We cannot hope to avert the Climate Emergency by investing in false solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you to whoever extended the deadline.

Sincerely,

Brenda Bailey-White
[REDACTED] Albuquerque, NM 87112

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: epb223@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 11:02 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In opposition to La Jara Mesa Mining Application

You don't often get email from epb223@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, their communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. Groundwater would be extracted from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer, the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, and which is already highly contaminated. Environmental and public health hazards would also arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

Furthermore, the proposed project also sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property, Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The Indigenous and frontline communities, as well as the people of New Mexico in general, deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. They should not be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and the government should pay reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Edward Butler, PhD

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Aria Chiodo <ariachiodo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2026 11:53 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa mining application

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Hello,

I'm writing regarding the La Jara Mesa Mining application submitted to the State of New Mexico, proposing uranium mining near Mount Taylor in Cibola county.

I am deeply opposed to this proposal for mining. It would, as it has in the past, impact residents of Cibola county as well as others downwind and downstream. Uranium mining in New Mexico has long caused pollution and disease and the mines must remain closed. The Pueblo of Acoma and All Pueblo Council are also opposed.

Furthermore, Mount Taylor was established as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) protected under the Historic Preservation Act in 2009. This geographic area holds an important cultural identity to the people of Acoma Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Navajo Nation, and many more Indigenous communities.

The impacted communities of New Mexico need justice-- land remediation and clean up-- not new mining projects. We have to move towards renewable energy projects that take care of our environment and people. The people are opposed to new mining and reopening of legacy mines.

I strongly urge the state and/or county to hold a public hearing on this issue.

Thank you,
Aria Chiodo
87507

Aria Chiodo (she/her)
ariachiodo@gmail.com
[linkedin.com/in/aria-chiodo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/aria-chiodo)

From: [Ann Denton](#)
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 4:47:48 PM

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February 13, 2026

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a retired USDA Forest Service District Ranger and Resource Management Staff Officer who served on the Stanislaus National Forest in Sonora, CA before retiring in 2019. In that role, I am familiar with permitting and mining operations, as well as government-to-government interactions with Native Tribes.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mguate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a

variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. Communities refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Denton

[REDACTED]

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Opposition to La Jara Mine

Mt Taylor, New Mexico, Cibola County

2/13/26

I write in opposition to the re-opening of the La Jara Mine by Mt Taylor, NM. Mt Taylor is much more useful to the surrounding communities as a resource untouched, rather than being exploited through the mining of toxic metals. This region has dealt with the consequences of Uranium extraction, such as the 1979 Church Rock Uranium Spill, downwinders from nuclear tests in New Mexico and Nevada, numerous unreclaimed mines throughout the region, and health detriments to populations in the immediate vicinity of this extraction.

Beyond the health effects, and lack of accountability from companies that extract these ores, these are important landscapes for wildlife populations in the region. This mining would promote further environmental degradation of regions that have already dealt with the uranium mining in the region since the 1950's. Uranium mining taints ground water sources, destroys ecosystems, harming wildlife and human communities throughout.

Communities such as Laguna-Acoma have suffered directly from mining in their communities, such as the Jackpile Mine. Communities were poisoned by uranium through working in these mines; living in communities near blasting operations, with radioactive material covering their foods and grazing animals; and having locals work these reclamation projects. Communities then faced cancers, kidney and respiratory diseases following the Uranium legacy. Reopening these mines and increasing operations would retarget vulnerable communities while further poisoning ecosystems and communities throughout these watersheds. Furthermore, these are important ceremonial sites for Southwest tribes: Navajo, Laguna-Acoma Pueblo, Zuni, Rio Grande Pueblos, and Jicarilla Apache. To continue disturbing these sites does not bode well. Mt Taylor is also a Traditional Cultural Property per the Historic Preservation Act of 2009

A recreational economy is one way to seek economic production in the Grants, NM area. There is a wide array of landscapes from lava flows and volcanic peaks, to sandstone mesas embedded with fossils. The Continental Divide Trail passes right over Mount Taylor providing exciting recreational opportunities such as hiking, trail-running, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, and more. Through smart marketing, we can make Grants a hub that promotes community health rather than supports the extraction of volatile minerals.

Grants could also lean into renewable energy sources to assist the landscape, and tie these methods to agriculture in a form of agrivoltaics technology. This can produce healthy foods, create jobs, and generate energy for the surrounding areas. This would also provide an opportunity to build skills and community.

There are many ways to assist communities like Grants, rather than relying upon resource extraction that has proven to destroy communities. Grants suffered immensely once mining ceased. Economies tanked, mine workers health suffered, and this will happen yet again once mines reopen and then abandon the region, leaving economic and environmental catastrophes in it's wake. We must learn from past mistakes and seek alternatives to build healthier communities, not reopen scars of the past.

As a community, we do not want any more uranium extraction in our region; we want to see reclamation of uranium and all mining projects throughout NM put at the forefront; we want cultural resources to be respected; and we want justice for those negatively impacted through uranium and all resource extraction.

Thank you,

Nekai Eversole

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Shayla Manitowabi Huebner <shaylahuebner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 12:32 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for In-Person Hearing on La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

Importance: High

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Hello,

I hope this message reaches Erin McCullough. My name is Shayla Manitowabi Huebner, and I am writing to you from Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, where I work in Indigenous Public Health. I'm Anishinaabe and member of Wiikwemkoong First Nation. I currently reside in New Mexico and am dedicated to advocating for Indigenous peoples and their rights.

I wish to express my strong opposition to the proposed La Jara Mesa Project and formally request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application. It is crucial that the surrounding Indigenous communities receive Free, Prior, and Informed Consent long before any mining activities are authorized or initiated, as outlined in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has been no uranium mining in New Mexico for four decades. The village of Pagate and surrounding Indigenous communities are still grappling with the severe environmental and health repercussions from the Jackpile-Pagate Uranium Mine. When the Jackpile mine closed in 1984, these communities were not fully aware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation that would manifest decades later, persisting into the present day.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact ground water and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer, the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna, which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

I would also like to highlight that the proposed project encroaches upon a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds profound spiritual significance for many tribes, including the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

As Indigenous peoples and frontline communities, we strongly oppose further resource extraction in the southwestern United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not transfer generational illnesses and cancers to our communities. We cannot be sacrificed for the advancement of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government acknowledge its responsibility to address the impacts of environmental racism and the toxic legacies of uranium mining.

Thank you for considering my request for an in-person hearing. I look forward to your response.

Miigwech,

Shayla R. Manitowabi Huebner, MSc (kwe/she/her)

Wiikwemkoong First Nation | Bear Clan

Research Associate, Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health
Youth Coach, Running Medicine
Athlete Advocate, Rising Hearts
Pueblos, Tigua, Piro, Diné, Noochu, N'de lands | New Mexico

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Recipient,

The La Jara Mesa Mining Project is unacceptable.

The proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, significant to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds cultural properties within its boundaries and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of cultural activities.

The village of Pagate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are suffering from the detrimental and lingering environmental effects of the Jackpile-Pagate Uranium Mine, even if closed in 1984.

The operation of another mine in this region, in the course of which transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste on site along with the extraction of groundwater from, for example, the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—being the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna and already highly contaminated—involves environmental and public health hazards.

The Indigenous people deserve the preservation of their sites of memory along with clean water and safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers.

Organize an **in-person hearing** regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, Informed, and Ongoing opportunities to Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities or any other unacceptable activities.

John

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: amy livingston <amyliv@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 9:45 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Cc: alicia@puebloactionalliance.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine

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2/16/2026

ATTN: Erin McCullough,
Director, Mining and Minerals
Division 1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Dear Ms. McCullough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a current resident of Española, NM. I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. Mining and oil and gas extraction continues to be planned in rural areas where residents - often Indigenous and politically

disenfranchised communities - bear the adverse environmental and health consequences of these activities, with little or no say in decisions made that impact their communities.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Amy Larsen

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Sarah Stern <ssstern105@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 1:44 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Sarah Stern and I am a Citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma who is deeply concerned about the extraction of resources such as uranium, as there are direct environmental harm factors that the people and animals of Cibola county will experience.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. **There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years.** For more additional context on environmental harm, please consider what we have learned from the past: The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

Additionally, I would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. To desecrate sacred land hurts all generations of these communities past, current and future.

As a Cherokee person who is a guest on these lands, I strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Sarah Stern

--

Sarah Stern

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Pronouns: she/hers and they/them

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Sadie Ciccia-Strain <sf.strain2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2026 9:11 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a Health teacher for 150 students. I care deeply about their well-being. It is our job to protect our children at all costs. Their health must come first in any decisions the New Mexico government makes.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna—which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

New Mexico's history as an extraction state has devastated indigenous families and others for decades. It's time to put the children first. They deserve clean air, water, and a life free of preventable diseases and illnesses.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers.

We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

There is always another way forward. The land and the people suffer from extraction, and indigenous communities always bear the most of that suffering. Once again, I oppose any Uranium mining in New Mexico. I hope you will join us in opposing it as well.

Sincerely,
Sadie Ciccio-Strain

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Walt Torres <smilwalt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2026 1:24 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Last Jara Mesa Letter
Attachments: 1000049957.jpg; 1000049960.jpg

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May all our letters and prayers be answered to keep our water and land safe for our great grandkids. We stand with you. Plesase send out any other info. Thank you n keep up the good fight!!

Walter Torres
Acoma Pueblo

[Insert Date]

Feb 14, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

[fill in: 1-2 sentences introducing yourself, tribal affiliation, credentials, etc].

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer- the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna- which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

[Add in: personal narratives ,connections to this region, and/or experiences with past uranium mining activities. If none, delete section]

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Walter Torres

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Trish Tuley <trishtuley47@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2026 10:24 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Application

[You don't often get email from trishtuley47@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Gentlepeople:

Please listen to the native people who will be impacted by another uranium mining project in their area. Uranium mining has negatively affected these folks for way too long. Please reject this new application.

Thank you,

Trish Tuley

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: ROBERT VILLA <robertvilla05@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 8:44 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No uranium mining

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We don't need your uranium mine destroying mother's environment. No to uranium mining!!

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Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Ciera Wiser <cierawiser@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2026 2:52 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to uranium mine

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To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a Pre-K teacher. The health of our children must come first in any decisions the New Mexico government makes.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

New Mexico's history as an extraction state has devastated indigenous families and others for decades. It's time to put the children first. They deserve clean air, water, and a life free of preventable diseases and illnesses.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers.

We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

There is always another way forward. The land and the people suffer from extraction, and indigenous communities always bear the most of that suffering. Once again, I oppose any Uranium mining or other extraction practices that harm these sacred lands. I hope you will join us in opposing these operations as well.

Sincerely,
Ciera Wiser

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Sarah Ausherman <s.barrett.ausherman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:48 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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2/16/2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I was born in Albuquerque and have lived here for years.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request that an in-person regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed consent sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer- the primary source of surface water for the Pueblo of Acoma and Laguna-which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Thank you,

Sarah Ausherman

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: September Benson <soupbenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:01 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on La Jara Mesa Mining Application ~ NO NEW MINING

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Dear Director McCullough,

I am writing to oppose the proposed La Jara Mesa uranium mining application by Laramide Resources.

As a former employee of the University of New Mexico's METALS research team, which conducts scientific research on the legacy of uranium mining in New Mexico communities, I oppose any new uranium mining with my whole being. I have seen firsthand the effects of uranium mining on human health, soil and plant viability, and frankly, the ability to live at all. Decades later, impacted communities are still waiting to receive subpar land remediation and cleanup. I use the word subpar because no remediation efforts to date can restore ecosystems, livelihoods, and lifeways to what they were before contamination. Their land and lives have been scarred permanently.

I stand with the All Pueblo Council of Governors and the Pueblo of Acoma in firmly opposing this project. Please listen to the people whose cultures relate to land as more than potential profit to be made. No new uranium mining.

Sincerely,
September Benson

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Nell <nellrb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:40 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No new uranium mining at La Jara Mesa

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Director Erin McCullough and NM Dept of Mining, Natural Resources the Environment-

I urge you to deny authorization to reopen the La Jara uranium mine in Cibola County, NM near Mount Taylor or any other uranium mine in NM.

I vehemently oppose this proposal first and foremost out of respect for our Native sisters and brothers. So many agreements with them have been broken by our government. The Traditional Cultural Property designation should be honored and respected.

Navajo and Pueblo communities have been adversely affected by uranium mines in their communities - especially by the grave health impacts on workers, but also via the contamination of air, soil and water. Instead of more mining, please authorize funding for cleanup and reclamation of existing mine sites!

Secondly, radioactive environmental contamination spreads and poses risks to all communities in NM. Take note of downwinders and other impacted groups of New Mexicans.

Third, the use of enriched uranium for nuclear energy or warheads is a poor use of our collective resources, which should be directed to health, housing, and education, instead of benefitting the military industrial complex.

Thank you for taking my testimony, and that of the people who will be most negatively affected, into consideration.

Sincerely,
Nell Burrus

Albuquerque, NM
87109

From: [Dillon Chavez](#)
To: [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine Permit
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:08:25 PM

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To whomever may concern,

I speak as a resident of New Mexico and as a citizen of the Navajo Nation that opposes the proposal of reopening uranium mining in or near Mt. Taylor and the Church Rock area.

Due to the 1979 spill in Church Rock, NM, it is astounding that the US government would entertain the idea of bringing back uranium mining in the same areas where said disaster occurred. The main reason for opposing the proposal is that due to the neglect of cleaning up after the 1979 incident, how are residents expected to entrust mining companies from repeating mistakes?

Residents around Church Rock live in areas that are still affected with radioactive contamination. It is unfair that the government should expect residents to be accepting of another mining proposal. The legacy of uranium mining can only be viewed as negative when it comes to the Navajo people since many former workers now deal with the adverse effects of uranium mining. The use of uranium itself may be construed as needed for nuclear energy or to serve the "national interest" but such a concept was also used when trying to justify the removal of Indigenous Peoples in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Simply put, the argument that uranium mining and its use is for the national interest is greatly insulting.

Both the citizens of New Mexico and its Indigenous People have a long history where the effects of uranium have been detrimental to their well being. That fact is clearly evident with the amount of people who have claims when it comes to RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act) all because they are victims of exposure to uranium use. The US government has only proven their neglect and carelessness when it comes to people who live near uranium mining sites. The incident in Church Rock, NM occurred over 40 years ago and in all that time, both the US and New Mexico governments have done little, if anything, to clean up that disaster; instead leaving residents to deal with the harmful residue.

And so because of all this neglect and the prolonged time period where the former energy company responsible for the radioactive disaster had sufficient time to properly clean up its mess or the various levels of government that could have done so too but have not, is the reason for my opposition. The mining company and government(s) have only proven they are not to be trusted and that uranium mining is much more harmful than benevolent.

I urge all parties who have an interest in restarting this harmful industry to think otherwise. It is an industry not wanted by New Mexicans or Indigenous People of the land(s) nor needed.

Thank you for reading.

-- Dillon B. Chavez (San Juan County resident and member of the Navajo Nation)

February 17, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a mother and educator living in Albuquerque and work with my Indigenous neighbors to protect our home for future generations.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous people and allies, and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to our land, water and neighbors sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Jen DePaolo, 87106

17th February 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Erin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Tiona Eversole. I am a Diné woman who grew up at the base of our southern sacred mountain, Tsoodzil (Mt Taylor). I am a professional athlete, a small business owner, and a public lands advocate that cares deeply about protecting sacred spaces and the stunning landscapes across the Southwest.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Growing up in Bluewater Village just west of Grants, NM, I've witnessed first-hand the impacts of a uranium boom & bust cycle in this region. Decrepit buildings stand where once-thriving businesses lined the historic Route 66. You might argue that uranium mining would temporarily improve the economy like it did in the 80s, but for how long and at what cost? Long-time locals in the area are still struggling with the fallout of the previous uranium mines as they watch their relatives battle cancer and other chronic ailments brought on by the time spent in and around the uranium mines. Opening another uranium mine in the area is not a long-term solution for the economic woes this community faces — especially when the environmental and health impacts are considered.

I have countless memories from my time on Tsoodzil — from trail running races and competing solo in the Mt Taylor Winter Quadrathlon (now in its 43rd year) to weekend hikes with my family to see the fall colors as young child. If mining is to resume in this area, outdoor recreation will take a major hit, as athletes and outdoor enthusiasts like myself will not feel safe or comfortable being in such close proximity to an active uranium mining operation.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguata and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguata Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer — the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna — which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

I would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the Diné (Navajo); the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna; the Hopi Tribe; several Rio Grande Pueblos; and the Jicarilla Apache. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Myself along with my Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Tiona Eversole

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Janet Goldstein <goldstein.j.mail@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:49 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit

You don't often get email from goldstein.j.mail@gmail.com. Learn why this is important
<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

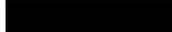
CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Erin McCullough:

I am writing because I oppose Laramide's uranium mining permit for La Jara Mesa Mine. Transportation of 12-15 truckloads of uranium a day for up to twenty years will harm the environment and deteriorate the health and quality of life not only of Cibola county residents but of those downstream and downwind of the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern.

Janet L. Goldstein


Socorro, NM 87801
410-402-3215 mobile

From: [Versabeth Hernandez](#)
To: [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing uranium mining/ La Jara mesa mining
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:12:41 PM

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I am writing this letter to oppose the re-opening of legacy uranium mine in Cibola county and any mining for uranium in New Mexico.

I am a deep lover for New Mexicos culture and land. These harmful mining operations damage the land and contaminate our already limited resources in New Mexico.

Uranium mining has a dark history in New Mexico, damaging near by pueblos by poisoning their land, air, water soil, and plant life.

Contamination from the uranium minings radioactive proximity caused long lasting health issues for humans that last generations.

I ask that you prioritize the people over profit.

I demand for

No new mining or reopening of old legacy uranium mines

Justice for impacted communities

land remediation and clean up

honor the significance of traditional cultural property designation

For you to listen to tribal communities

Thank you,

Versabeth Hernandez

From: [Logan Johnson](#)
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject La Jara Mesa Mining Application
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 8:37:45 PM

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Hello,

Please reject any and all applications for new or reactivated mining near Mt. Taylor. Mining in the region has already caused much harm to the communities there. Remediation and clean up of existing mining resources to help the land and help the people are the only actions with regards to mining that should be taking place near Mt. Taylor. Listen to Tribal communities and listen to the people! No more mining near Mt. Taylor! It's is a federally designated Traditional Cultural Property and deserves respect and care, not extraction and abuse!

Thank you,
Logan Johnson

From: [Kai Warrior](#)
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Opposition
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 7:06:45 PM

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February 17, 2026,

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a born and raised New Mexican, currently residing on Tewa land.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation,

the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I encourage the makers of this decision to take financial gain and greed out of the equation, and to think about the people, families, animals, soil, and vegetation this choice will negatively and irreversibly impact.

We, as Indigenous and frontline communities, strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Kai Warrior

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Geoff Kie <geoffkieproductions@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:07 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Opposition Letter - 2/17/26 - Kie
Attachments: La Jara Public Comment_Kie_2_17_26.pdf

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2/17/26

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Geoff Kie and I live in Seama Village in the Pueblo of Laguna. I am Big Corn Clan and Little Turquoise Clan. I have my Master's in Communication and currently work within the Native American Food Sovereignty movement.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from the United Nations. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years.

I have personally sat with our elders from Laguna Pueblo and Acoma Pueblo who have had a lifelong exposure associated with the Uranium Mining industry that has already taken place within the region of Mt. Taylor. These are some of the most horrific stories that I have heard in a long time. Whole areas around Paguate Village and Jack Pile Mine are still radioactive. There is little wildlife in the area and those that are still around continue to be exposed to continuous radiation which makes it unsafe to hunt and eat our cultural foods. Traditional gathering of medicines can no longer be done, the landscape that is used for baskets and pottery are not usable anymore. The elders have also asserted that this mining operation and exposure is the reason we have lost much of our language. We have lost elders to stomach cancer, kidney cancer and more complications have taken our cultural leaders and knowledge holders.

I am now worried that if operations commence then my village, Seama Village will eventually be exposed to more radiation because the La Jara Operation is part of the Rio San Jose water table. We continue to use this water system to grow our traditional crops and practices. This is an infringement on cultural rights.

The proposed area sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Do not allow this operation to take place.

Sincerely,
Geoff Kie
Pueblo of Laguna

--
They/Him/His
505.677.5408
geoffkieproductions.com
Sent from Laguna Pueblo



Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Abigail Littlefield <abbylittlefield02@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:22 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Permit Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Ya'at'eeh,

Hello, thank you for opening and extending the period of comment on the La Jara Mesa Mining Permit. My name is Abigail Littlefield, and I am a member of the Navajo Nation residing in Gallup, New Mexico. I am writing to submit my opposition to the mining permit.

Uranium is a valued resource and something that's demand has begun rising in recent years since the 1970s. Uranium is not only an economic profit but also a sacred resource to the Dine (Navajo) people, its significance can be seen as medicine for Shima Nahadzaan, Mother Earth, that stays in the ground for her health not our profit. Not only is uranium a sacred medicine for Shima Nahadzaan, Mt. Taylor is a sacred mountain to the Dine people as well. Creation stories and lessons that have been passed from generation to generation of Mt. Taylor, Tsoodzil. The Pueblo relatives of Laguna also hold high reverence for Tsoodzil, this is why Mt. Taylor is an already established Traditional Cultural Property since 2009. This is one reason why I, as a Navajo woman, am opposing the mining permit as it threatens a sacred mountain and medicine.

Of course, what I hold sacred that has been preserved for generations despite constant attacks from colonizers does not convince me that it is enough for you to oppose as well. Uranium mining has impacted my community, and all others surrounding, since the 1970's. The Churchrock Uranium Spill in 1979 is the major event that convinced me that uranium is not safe. There is a history that the Pueblos and Dine have experienced first hand that I ask that you listen to and consider.

If this mining permit passes, extraction begins and Indigenous communities, who have already gone through this before and lost trust, are still demanding accountability of the mines to clean their waste. This mine threatens the health and preservation of Tsoodzil. Uranium mining waste still has not been cleaned up from the first rush that came through. Clean up has been long and slow with no real solutions that protect impacted communities and avoid the problematic ways of mining uranium.

Again, I am voicing my opposition for the La Jara Mesa Mining permit. The clean up has been unsatisfactory, to say the least, Indigenous communities and identities are threatened with this proposal and I ask that you consider the history of uranium. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Best,

Abigail Littlefield

2/17/26

abby.littlefield.02@gmail.com

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jill Martinez <jill@garciaroadfarm.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 10:23 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to the uranium mine

You don't often get email from jill@garciaroadfarm.com. Learn why this is important
<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

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As a New Mexico resident, hiker, birder, and farmer, I oppose the proposed La Jara Mesa Uranium mine for the reasons listed below as given on the Pueblo Action Alliance website:

Laramide Resources, Inc announced Monday 1/12/26 that they submitted a complete Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan to the State regarding the La Jara Mesa Uranium mine. In this plan it states once the mine begins operation, it is expected to produce 12-15 truck loads of uranium a day. The plan also states that the uranium would be processed at an offsite mill, not specifying where. This operation could run for up to 20 years. There has not been uranium mining in NM in 40 years. This project has to go through the state and federal government for approval.

This project was placed on the federal fast track list to streamline the approval process. Under the state of New Mexico, there is a multi-agency review process that must take place which includes the New Mexico Environment Department, the State Engineer, the state Forestry Division and Historic Preservation Division.

The Pueblo of Acoma and the All Pueblo Council of Governors have released letters opposing the La Jara Mesa uranium mine project in 2024.

This region lies on top of the grants mineral belt and has long been impacted by the legacy of uranium mining and milling. With numerous uranium mines and a large open pit mine operating in the Pueblo of Laguna from the 1950's to their closure in 1979, the Pueblo and surrounding communities have been devastated from radioactive contamination in the air, water, soil, and plant life. This resulted in an influx of chronic illnesses such as various types of cancers, kidney diseases and failure, pulmonary fibrosis and so much more. These communities have not gotten the justice they deserve even 40 years later. There has not been effective and scientifically proven clean up measures implemented currently. These communities cannot afford another dangerous extractive project near tribal traditional homelands.

It is of most significance to remind our communities, tribal leaders, state leaders, and federal entities that Mount Taylor was established as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) protected under the Historic Preservation Act in 2009. This geographic area holds an important cultural identity to the people of Acoma Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Navajo Nation, and many more Indigenous communities. This project would not only impact citizens located in Cibola County, but everyone downwind and downstream of the site.

Our Demands:

- No new mining or reopening of old legacy uranium mines
- Justice for impacted communities
- Land remediation and clean up
- Honor the significance of Traditional Cultural Property designation
- Listen to tribal communities

Pueblo Action Alliance website <https://files.constantcontact.com/e64dc9ac901/36f7ab64-2392-4a4e-bdcf-3286162f7f40.pdf>
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffiles.constantcontact.com%2Fe64dc9ac901%2F36f7ab64-2392-4a4e-bdcf-3286162f7f40.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cmmd.marp%40emnrd.nm.gov%7Cba19efa780c04e9f532a08de6d801ecc%7C04aa6bf4d436426bfa404b7a70e60ff%7C0%7C0%7C639068594396177874%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9cZBs2IA0AynSqFfutu3Z1xxbhAbywkDF4woM7YATCo%3D&reserved=0>>

Thank you for your consideration,
Jill Martinez, MA, MEd

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Leona Morgan <leona.morgan.nm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:11 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Cc: Perry Charley; Mae Franklin; Jonathan Perry; Mae-Gilene Begay; Andee Rose Lister; wbaheshone@navajo-nsn.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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Dear Mining and Minerals Division Director McCullough and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Leona Morgan and I am an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. I have been working on uranium and nuclear issues in this state for the protection of our People, our environment and our Sacred places since 2007. Currently, I live in Albuquerque, but my family is traditionally from the Eastern Navajo Nation (Crownpoint, NM area).

I am writing in response to the Public Notice regarding La Jara Mesa Mine and to request for public hearings on the Navajo Nation.

As we have seen from the past uranium mining and milling in the State of New Mexico, we have been left with a legacy of uranium waste and health problems that continue today. There are hundreds of abandoned uranium mines on Navajo and in the State that lack remediation and continue to pose undue risk and harm to our communities. I am very concerned about the La Jara Mesa uranium mine and the others closeby, including the Mt. Taylor mine that is undergoing remediation and the proposed Roca Honda and Grants Precision ISR. The cumulative impact of all of these mines needs to be considered before any new proposed uranium projects move forward.

As there is only one conventional uranium mill in operation in the country owned by Energy Fuels, located in southeast Utah, a few miles north of the White Mesa community. Any uranium ore that is extracted at a conventional mine will most likely be processed at the Energy Fuels uranium mill. This means the transport may go through Navajo Nation, yet the route is not specified. As such, the Navajo public must be informed and afforded the opportunity to give public comments.

Due to the unknown nature of the transport and multiple possible routes, I am requesting for multiple hearings at key locations that may be impacted by such transport, including but not limited to: Thoreau, NM; Crownpoint, NM, Shiprock, NM; Window Rock, AZ; Tsaile AZ; and Mexican Water AZ.

The Navajo Nation generally opposes new uranium mining on the reservation, pursuant the Navajo Nation [Diné Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005, CAP-18-05](#). Currently, the Nation is working on new [Interim Regulations of uranium transport](#) through our reservation.

In addition, the Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) approved a resolution opposing La Jara Mesa uranium mine and related transport on June 7, 2025, [Resolution No. ENAC-06-2025-029](#).

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, "[From 1944 to 1986, nearly 30 million tons of uranium ore were extracted from Navajo lands.](#)" The location of the mine is on one of our sacred mountains known as Tsoodzil (Mt. Taylor) which is why Navajo Nation and four other Indigenous Nations nominated Mt. Taylor as a Traditional Cultural Property, which was [upheld by a New Mexico State Supreme Court in 2014.](#)

According to [Navajo Fundamental Law, CN-69-02](#), "The six sacred mountains, Sisnajini, Tsoodzil, Dook'o'oosliid, Dibe Nitsaa, Dzil Na'oodilii, Dzil Ch'ool'i'i, and all the attendant mountains must be respected, honored and protected for they, as leaders, are the foundation of the Navajo Nation."

Because our Diné People's health, environment, and sacred places have been harmed by past uranium mining, milling and transport, I respectfully request that the State of New Mexico hear our People's concerns. It is imperative to hold as many hearings as needed to educate those most impacted near the mine and mill locations and the residents whose daily lives will be affected. Please hold public hearings with an educational presentation and allow ample time for questions to be answered. In addition, these hearings will require translation for Diné-only speakers.

Due to the change in Navajo Nation Policy for uranium transport, I also ask that any transport of new uranium ore be put on hold pending the approval of our new regulations. This process is just underway and [Navajo EPA is holding its first public hearing](#) on the matter on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Also, please consider extending this Public Comment Period an additional 90-120 days for others to read the MORP and have ample time to respond accordingly.

Lastly, please add my email to your interested parties email list: leona.morgan.nm@gmail.com.

Ahéhee' (Thank you),

Leona Morgan
NM resident and Member of the Navajo Nation

Erin McCullough,
Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
February 12, 2026

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

I am a resident of Llano New Mexico on the traditional lands of Picuris Pueblo and have been farming and raising a family here for over 60 years. I live directly downwind from Los Alamos National Labs and am no stranger to the windblown pollution that has affected our soils and the dust in our homes (2006 study). I am also a cancer survivor, but my heart goes out to our neighbors at Acoma and Laguna Pueblo who are much closer to the source of the problem, and have suffered much greater losses. I have personally heard many tragic stories of generations of families affected by cancers, thyroid and kidney diseases, etc.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and adamantly request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Pagate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Pagate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, Native communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later. These are still an issue in 2026. Until the degradation of these lands are addressed and it is cleaned up, there should be no talk of new uranium mining. Aside from our local issues, nuclear weapons are immoral and have been deemed illegal by international law. The US and other nuclear states have enough weapons of mass destruction to destroy life on this planet many times over. What is needed now is diplomacy and cooperation between nations to address the existential issues of the climate crisis, which will affect all countries and peoples. We need our leaders to be brave and stand up to environmental degradation both from the war economy and the new push for AI data centers.

The opening of a new mine in this region is totally unacceptable and would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna is already highly contaminated. Further extraction would just compound this environmental injustice. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. As it is, legacy waste at Los Alamos

labs was supposed to have priority at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) and it is still mostly sitting in tents in a fire prone zone. It is highly irresponsible to create more waste streams without adequate plans to take care of the highly radioactive waste that is produced.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely


Jean Nichols
[REDACTED]

Llano, NM 87543
505-417-0155

I am a member of the Picuris-Peñasco Community Coalition and manage Art for the Heart studio and the Chamisal ReUse Center, all projects of MAS Comunidad, a non-profit organization in the Peñasco area.



Erin McCullough
Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Dr.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 17, 2026

Re: New Mexico Mining Watch comments on Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan and request for hearing on Permit No. CI008RN, La Jara Mesa Mine

Dear Director McCullough:

On behalf of New Mexico Mining Watch (“NMMW”), please accept the following comments on Laramide Resources, Inc.’s (“Laramide”) proposed Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan (“MORP”). NMMW hereby also requests that the Mining and Minerals Division hold a public hearing on the MORP and the new mine application for Permit No. CI008RN. Additionally, the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, which is a member of NMMW, hereby renews its request that the Mining and Minerals Division holds a public hearing on the application for Permit No. CI008RN, initially made in July, 2024.

New Mexico Mining Watch is a statewide coalition of non-profit, public interest and community organizations dedicated to protecting New Mexico’s land, air and water from the impacts of mineral extraction projects. NMMW represents a broad range of Native and non-Native communities effected by historic and current mining operations.

Based on NMMW’s review of the MORP, NMMW has significant concerns about Laramide’s willingness and ability to operate its proposed mine in a way that protects

the environment, public health, and Mt. Taylor's¹ cultural integrity. To the extent NMMW can offer technical comments based on an incomplete MORP, NMMW provides the following:

I. The MORP is Incomplete

As a preliminary matter, NMMW disagrees with MMD's determination that the MORP is administratively complete. For example, Appendix A to the MORP, which contains design drawings of various features of the proposed mine such as waste retention ponds, planned surface facilities and proposed drainage plans are only 60% designs leaving almost half of the technical designs to be determined at some unspecified future date. It is unclear whether the remaining 40% design plans would be subject to public notice and opportunity to comment. Additionally, Laramide has deferred numerous important aspects of mine planning until an unspecified time in the future. Those deferred plans include such significant and fundamental decisions as whether the mine is economically feasible, substantial tribal consultations, and mitigation plans to insure the mine does not affect Mt. Taylor's cultural integrity. *See*, MORP at 4, 39.

While NMMW understands that a permit applicant may not be able to provide every detail of its operations prior to breaking ground, Laramide's MORP is currently inadequate to the point of raising due process concerns. Neither NMMW nor any other interested member of the public can meaningfully comment on Laramide's proposed operations and reclamation based on the current MORP because there is simply insufficient information to do so.

Consequently, NMMW recommends that MMD withdraw its administrative completeness determination unless and until Laramide can provide a MORP that contains sufficient information about its proposed operations and reclamation to allow for meaningful public comment. Alternatively, NMMW recommends that MMD provide notice and an opportunity to comment on any subsequent operational or reclamation related information Laramide provides to MMD.

¹ The mountain is known by many names. For the sake of simplicity, NMMW will refer to the mountain by the name imposed by colonial powers – "Mt. Taylor."

II. The MORP is Technically Deficient

Related to NMMW's objection to MMD's determination of administrative completeness, the MORP is so technically deficient that meaningful comment at this time is impossible.

A. Uranium Ore Storage Plans are Deficient

As noted above, the first phase of Laramide's proposed operations involve exploratory activities, including bulk sampling. MORP at 10. Bulk sampling will involve extracting 40,000 to 50,000 tons of "uranium-mineralized material" that Laramide will "temporarily" store on the surface of a compacted clay liner on the waste rock dump outside the mining area prior to transport to the mill for testing². *Id.* Laramide claims hauling to offsite testing facilities will be "conducted periodically" to eliminate need for a large stockpile.

During the proposed production phase, Laramide will transport ore in trucks and Laramide will place the ore on the clay-lined pad while awaiting transport to the mill. MORP at 12. The pad created by waste rock will be used to store the mineralized material (ore) prior to off-site shipment. *Id.* at 17, Table 2-5, note 3.

The MORP states that uranium ore will be stored outside the mine on a waste rock pad before being trucked offsite to the mill. The MORP does not indicate how the ore piles or bulk sampling piles will be protected from wind and precipitation, which could spread radioactive material across the landscape and leach radioactive and toxic materials into the ground.

B. The MORP does not Account for Climate Change Impacts

While the MORP provides some information about stormwater management, Laramide has not provided any indication that it considered the effects of climate change in calculating the capacity of its stormwater retention ponds. While on average, climate

² As described below, Laramide proposes to dig its exploratory tunnels through the Westwater and Recapture formations, both of which contain uranium, radium and heavy metals that have significant negative health effects when inhaled or ingested. This makes the need for detailed and rigorous plans to ensure the bulk samples are protected from wind and precipitation all the more important.

change will likely create hotter and drier conditions in New Mexico, it will also cause more violent precipitation events. The MORP provides no information about how Laramide anticipates preventing stormwater runoff in periods of intense short-term precipitation.

Additionally, and more important, Laramide provides no plans for preventing or containing fire. As noted above, New Mexico's increasingly hotter and drier climate makes the threat of catastrophic wildfires more likely. The MORP provides no indication of how Laramide intends to prevent fires or any plans for containing a fire should it cause one. The absence of a wildfire mitigation plan seems particularly glaring in the context of blasting activities in Phase I of the proposed operation. This is particularly concerning for NMMW members who are homeowners in the area because the risk of wildfire affects their ability to obtain or maintain homeowners' insurance. *See, e.g., Lohmann, Patrick, Fires Making Home Insurance Unaffordable, Impossible NM Lawmakers Say*, Source NM (Aug. 21, 2024), available at: <https://sourcenm.com/2024/08/21/fires-making-home-insurance-unaffordable-impossible-nm-lawmakers-say/> (last viewed, Feb. 16, 2026).

C. Laramide Provides Insufficient Information about Water use and Acquisition

The MORP indicates during mine production, water use is substantial: 61 gallons per minute or 29,472 gallons in an eight-hour day. *Id.* at 22, Table 2-6. Laramide further states that in the drier seasons, it assumes a "3,000 gallon capacity water truck applying[a] full water load each hour 5 – 8 hours per day during dry periods". *Id.* at Table 2-6, note 4. A full thirty-day month of continuous work would consume 2.712 acre feet, or nearly 800,000 gallons, of water. This amounts to 9.6 million gallons of water use per year or 57.6 to 172.8 million gallons of water use over the proposed 6 to 18 years of mine operations. The MORP does not indicate where Laramide will obtain this much water, whether it has rights to obtain the water, or whether obtaining water on this scale is even possible. NMMW requests that MMD require demonstrate proof, such as water rights confirmed by the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, that it has access to sufficient water to conduct its proposed operations and reclamation.

D. Laramide's Hydrological Analysis is Deficient

Laramide claims its proposed project will have no impact on groundwater. MORP at 39, § 4.1.3; 42, § 4.1.8. However, Figure 2-1³ indicates that in order to reach the target mineralized zone in the Poison Canyon formation⁴, Laramide will have to tunnel through the Westwater and Recapture formations, both of which are known to contain groundwater within the region. MORP at 5, Fig. 2-1. Before MMD should consider the MORP complete, it should require Laramide to confirm that its operations will not affect groundwater by completing the appropriate tests to establish the lack of groundwater in the mine area.

III. **The La Jara Mesa Project Should be Considered an Exploration Project Rather than a New Mine Project**

According to the MORP, Laramide is unsure of whether the proposed mine is commercially viable and must conduct exploratory activity to make a viability determination. *Id.* at 2. Indeed, the entire purpose of Phase I of the mining project is to determine whether the mine is economically viable. *Id.* at 4. Laramide admits that should this exploratory phase reveal the proposed mine is not economically viable, it will not proceed with constructing the mine and begin reclaiming from exploration activities. *Id.* Because of this uncertainty and the likelihood that Laramide will be unable to provide financial assurance for the entire mine (see comment, below) and perhaps even for exploration, NMMW urges MMD to treat Laramide's new mine application and MORP as an application for an exploration permit. Only after Laramide has confirmed that the proposed La Jara Mesa project is economically viable should MMD consider a new mine permit application.

IV. **Laramide is Unlikely to be able to Obtain Financial Assurance for Reclamation**

Laramide is unlikely to be able to obtain financial assurance for reclamation. Laramide's ability to obtain financial assurance for Phase I of the La Jara Mesa mine

³ This figure is identical to Figure 9 on page 17 of Laramide's revised *Technical Report on La Jara Mesa Uranium Property, Cibola County, New Mexico* (July 23, 2007).

⁴ The MORP does not indicate that the Poison Canyon formation is the target zone of the mine. However, Laramide's revised *Technical Report on La Jara Mesa Uranium Property, Cibola County, New Mexico* repeatedly states the minerals Laramide seeks to extract ore from that formation.

project, which is exploratory work, is highly questionable. Its inability to obtain financial assurance for the entire project is almost certain. In Phase I, the mine exploratory phase, Laramide intends to construct two parallel tunnels, fifteen feet wide by twelve feet high, 5,000 feet into La Jara Mesa using the drill and blast method. United States Forest Service, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the La Jara Mesa Mine Project* at 20-21 (March, 2012) (“DEIS”). A back-of-the-envelope calculation using <https://calcforge.com/cost>, reveals each tunnel would cost approximately \$113.4 million to dig, for a total of \$226.8 million (US) for both. At the same time, Yahoo Finance shows that Laramide’s value (market cap) is \$229.73 million (Canadian). See, <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/LAM.TO/key-statistics/> (last viewed Feb. 11, 2026). Using the current exchange rate⁵, Laramide’s value is just under \$170,000,000 U.S. Thus, the cost of digging the exploratory tunnels alone substantially exceeds Laramide’s entire value, making it a significant risk for any potential bondholder or insurer. The above costs do not include the cost of any other tunnels Laramide may need to construct to complete its exploration or the cost of any of Laramide’s other mining projects. Those costs undoubtedly increase any bond-holder’s or insurer’s risk.

A generous interpretation of Laramide’s MORP is that it represents the baseless optimism of a severely undercapitalized junior mining company that wants to receive permit approvals with minimum friction. A more cynical (or perhaps realistic) interpretation is that Laramide needs to attract investors in order to even begin exploration on the La Jara Mesa project and an approved MORP and permit would help it do so.

MMD should not be in the business of validating baseless hopes or assisting a corporation recruit capital. NMMW recommends that MMD require Laramide to produce proof that it is able to obtain third-party financial assurance before MMD expends any further taxpayer resources on evaluating the MORP or Laramide’s permit application.

⁵ <https://wise.com/gb/currency-converter/cad-to-usd-rate?amount=100> (last viewed Feb. 11, 2026).

V. The MORP Contains no Information About the Steps Laramide will take to Protect Mt. Taylor's Cultural Integrity

Undoubtedly the most troubling aspect of the proposed La Jara Mesa mine is the fact it will inarguably and irrevocably adversely affect the Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property. *See, e.g.,* United States Forest Service, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the La Jara Mesa Mine Project* at 152-163. As the DEIS acknowledges, in the U.S. Forest Service's consultations with tribes for whom Mt. Taylor has cultural significance, the tribes' primary concern, collectively, is that the proposed mine will negatively affect the mountain's sacred integrity and therefore interfere with or possibly eliminate aspects of cultural and religious practices. *Id.* at 154-157.

Several of NMMW's member groups consist of Indigenous people for whom Mt. Taylor has cultural significance. As indicated in the DEIS, for these NMMW members, Mt. Taylor, including La Jara Mesa, are part of living, ongoing cultural and religious practices. DEIS at 156-157. NMMW is concerned that the proposed mine will significantly interfere with and potentially eliminate their Tribal members' ability to engage freely in cultural and religious activities.

Indeed, in gathering information to support the nomination of Mt. Taylor as a traditional cultural property, the U.S. Forest Service compiled a compelling case that large industrial extraction projects like the proposed La Jara Mesa mine should not be permitted at all. *See, generally,* Benedict, Cynthia and Hudson, Erin, *Mt. Taylor Traditional Cultural Property Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of History Places*, Report No. 2008-03-021 (Feb. 4, 2008) ("Benedict Report"). The Benedict Report makes clear that industrial extraction projects on Mt. Taylor generally and on La Jara Mesa in particular represent an existential threat to Indigenous cultural practices. For example, Mt. Taylor and its surrounding features, including La Jara Mesa, are central to the Pueblo of Acoma's cultural practices as a living community and maintaining its members' cultural identity. Benedict Report at 17.

Similarly, Mt. Taylor plays a central role in Navajo cosmology and the Navajo people consider the mountain and its surrounding areas a spiritual stronghold. *Id.* at 19. La Jara Mesa, in particular, has deep cultural significance to Navajo people. *Id.* The mesa is integral to the Navajos' cosmology and creation narrative. *Id.*

People of the Pueblo of Laguna, according to the Benedict Report, believe that since the Creator Mother gave them Mt. Taylor to live and prosper as a people, to desecrate it is dangerous and can lead to unforeseen consequences and ultimately extinction. *Id.* at 23.

For members of the Pueblo of Jemez, Mt. Taylor is crucial to their cultural practices. *Id.* at 25. Cultural practices are tied to specific locations on and near Mt. Taylor and cultural practitioners cannot simply choose another location if a culturally significant location is disturbed or destroyed. *Id.* Alteration of traditional cycles and practices will affect the community's cultural beliefs and diminish their effectiveness and power. *Id.*

These are just a few examples of Mt. Taylor's and its surrounding mesas' cultural, ceremonial and religious significance. The need for protecting its integrity by the strongest measures possible cannot be overstated. Failure to do so will result, at a minimum, in illegal and unconstitutional restrictions on religious freedom and, at worst, ethnocide.

However, Laramide's operational plans propose no actions that would mitigate or eliminate known concerns about the mine's cultural and religious effects. Such concerns include, but are not limited to: mine subsidence, which would permanently alter La Jara Mesa's surface; blowing radioactive dust; noise; visual impacts; and road construction. The MORP only provides that Laramide Minerals will conduct tribal consultations at some future time and may alter operations based on those consultations. MORP at 39.

Laramide's vague promises are insufficient to insure compliance with all relevant laws and constitutional provisions, such as the U.S. and New Mexico Constitutions' guarantees of religious freedom; the obligation of the United States and all subordinate governments, including state governments, to abide by international and regional human rights treaty obligations; the federal (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000bb *et seq.*) and New Mexico (NMSA, 1978 §§ 28-22-1 *et seq.*) Religious Freedom Restoration Acts and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000cc *et seq.*). Although MMD's primary responsibility is implementing and enforcing the New Mexico Mining Act, it cannot willfully ignore these other legal obligations, particularly those relating to constitutional rights.

Moreover, in New Mexico, we urge MMD to act as a backstop against the current climate of federal deregulation. MMD should therefore closely scrutinize and analyze La Jara Mesa mine's cultural and religious impacts.

NMMW recommends that MMD forestall any further action on Laramide's permit application unless and until Laramide produces concrete measures, subject to public notice and comment, to protect Mt. Taylor's integrity as a cultural and religious site.

VI. Conclusion

Mt. Taylor's cultural and religious value is immeasurable. Its economic value as a recreational site is significant. Its value in providing ecosystem services is incalculable. All Cibola County residents and many New Mexicans outside Cibola County share these benefits.

The proposed La Jara Mesa mine will diminish all these values for the sake of minimal and highly speculative short-term economic gain for one mining company. Because of the extraordinary harm at stake and Laramide's woefully inadequate MORP, NMMW urges MMD to rigorously scrutinize Laramide's plans and maximize public involvement in its analyses.

Thank you for your consideration.



Eric Jantz
Legal Director
New Mexico Environmental Law Center
ejantz@nmelc.org

Ava Curtis
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment

Allyson Siwik
Executive Director
Gila Resources Information Project

Rachel Conn
Deputy Director
Amigos Bravos

Wendy Atcitty
Environmental Specialist
Southwest Research Information Center

Sally Paez
Staff Attorney
New Mexico Wild

Clara Sims
Assistant Executive Director
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

Hazel James-Tohe
Managing Director
Diné Centered Research and Evaluation

Talia Boyd
KIITG Co-Lead Coordinator, Mining Organizer
Indigenous Environmental Network

Douglas Meiklejohn
Water Quality and Land Restoration Advocate
Conservations Voters New Mexico

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Lolita Spencer

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Mt. Taylor is one of our sacred mountain to the Navajo people. My father worked for Union Carbide Corp for 30 years as a Uranium miner. My father has silicosis lung disease from Uranium mining & lost his life at young age. Mother also lost her life from colon cancer also being exposed to milling & mining.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Lolita Spencer

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Lelona Groatson from Zuni Pueblo

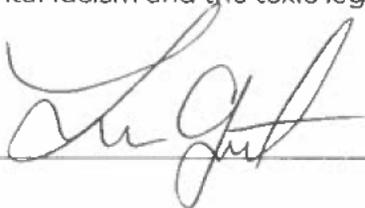
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The impact of uranium mining affects not only the land but also the health of the communities around them. These impacts last for generations and affect our way of life.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine, Nam

a student and resident of New Mexico

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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The reopening of old mines is incredibly detrimental to what remains of our vital natural resources in the Southwest. Please advocate for land remediation, clean up, & honor the insight/welcoming of tribal communities. The significance of protecting traditional cultural property designation is profound.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Speranza

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Eric Lonahaptewa an enrolled member of the Hopi Tribe

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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I have lived closed to Tuba City Arizona, born in 1990! I have seen first hand the desecration mining for uranium does to the land. I have also witnessed the environmental impact and diseases that follows that affects the surrounding communities from the mines. I encourage you to make the best action to stop and oppose the La Jara Mesa Project!

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Eric Lonahaptewa *Eric Lonahaptewa*

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Edna Ojeda

Dine-Hopi

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Stop Please Stop the URANIUM. Please

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Edna Ojeda

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6. 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Sara Chevallier - CPM, LM

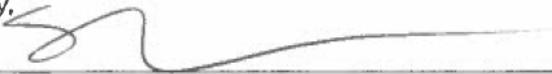
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As a midwife catching the next generation - I Strongly
oppose the La Jara Mesa project, our future generations
depend on a Clean Earth!

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



2-16-2026

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Veronica Ramirez

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Please think about the future of our land our children
and the negative impacts you will be insulating
Onto us if you do nothing to prevent this

No More Fracking

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Veronica Ramirez

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Galaxy Dancer of Santa Fe.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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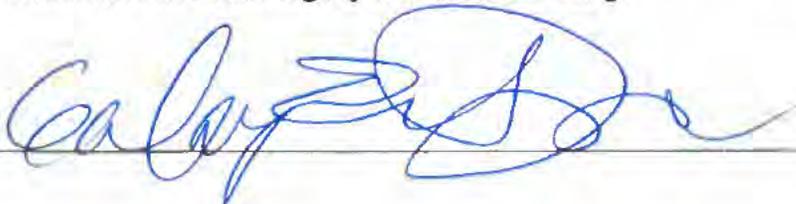
I am against the pollution of our water.

Mt Taylor is a sacred natural place that needs preserved.

The impact on the health of the people living & working there.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Oleo Otero - Dine / Hopi

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Mt. Taylor is my parents backyard.

Stop Uranium

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

**Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Sierra Mondragon, M.A., from
Nambé Pueblo

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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To protect the land, because without
our Earth Mother we would not be here.
She is our past, present, and future. She is
us.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Sierra Mondragon

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Karilyn L. Hazous - Navajo - Taos Pueblo

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Mines of this sort are not safe, hazardous to our environment. Oppose!!

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Karilyn L. Hazous

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6. 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

a community member, caretaker and teaching artist.

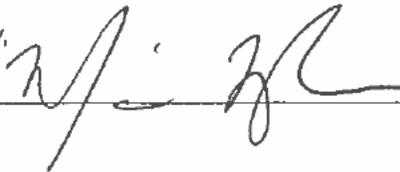
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Please take this request seriously and honor the land and the peoples of the land and future generations to live free of the harm of the La Jara Mesa Project.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



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Date: Feb 6, 2026

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Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Nantsha Keeto, Navajo, Kiva Club

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Robin Saliz, an elementary teacher

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Sincerely,

Robin Saliz

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Colbert Washburn

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Science and History have repeatedly confirmed that uranium mining can and will cause generational damage, continuing to insult the lessons we've learned in blood would be nothing short of insanity.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Karla Amador .

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely, 

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Rachel Marquez, M.A. Education, educator

healer.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Rachel Marquez

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

*Vidal Gonzalez and I am a
tribal member/business owner from Santa Clara Pueblo*

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

*We don't want uranium mining in our state
in order to protect our families, communities,
& environment.*

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Krista Rae Chico

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

ARINA HANSEN Former SFC Commissioner

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Arina Hansen

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Shauna Dayish

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Troy Trujillo

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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It's bad, can alter your genes and have birth defects. There is no treatment for it.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Raymond Navas

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Sincerely,

Raymond Navas

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Ashley Pino

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Ashley Pino

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Ava Curtis

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Ava Curtis

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Matthew Concho, Acoma Pueblo

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Matthew Concho

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am _____

John Dean Albare

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

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Sincerely,

John D. Albare

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Ernedith Lopez
a resident of Albuquerque.

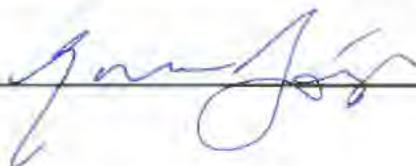
I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Respect community opposition and uphold it!
Preserve and protect the interest of communities.
children's lives and cultural sites/traditions!
New Mexico is not for sale!

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Elena Torres

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

we do not stand the mining of our land
or our minds

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Elena Torres

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Hannah Loftus and I am a second year student at the University of New Mexico.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Hannah Loftus

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Corinna Bozzuto
of Taos Pueblo and the Navajo Nation

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Uranium mining should not be permitted at La Jara Mesa.
The damages and devastation to the communities are still being
felt since the last time mining in the area was halted. Without
proper clean up, remediation, or compensation uranium mining should
not be considered an option. We are not your sacrifice zone.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Corinna Bozzuto

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Alexis Perez
a young New Mexican, who is aware of the dangers of the nuclear industry

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Given New Mexico's tragic history of nuclear, we can't let Laramide take more from indigenous communities. There are still hundreds of uranium mines that are still ~~not~~ have yet to be cleaned up.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Alexis

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Val Garcia

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Uranium mining pollutes our water and air. Please
support Mother Nature.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Val Garcia

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Maria Baca

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The exposure of uranium is detrimental to all of us. Not only tribes, but New Mexicans and the world.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Maria Baca

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am _____

Anna Davraah of Santa Fe, NM.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Caithyr Bizzell, a
NM resident & UNM student

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I implore you, protect New Mexicans, not
corporate profit.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely, Caithyr Bizzell

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Melissa Troutman, Climate & Health Advocate for WildEarth Guardians headquartered in Santa Fe.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

It is an insult to propose this mine when the legacy of contamination and harm is still so ripe in this region and others. The community must be the ones to decide — to consent — and without their approval, this project must not proceed.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Melissa Troutman

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Maliyah Marie Glade and im a student @ unmg a NM Local

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Maliyah Glade

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Deborah Iron

AIM Albug. Grassroots

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Protect Mother Earth, we do not want to repeat history!

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Deborah Iron

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Kenneth Brito
from Santa Fe NM

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

The reason I oppose is because taking sacred resources causing harm to our local people and communities goes against human decency, moral and spiritual code. Our land is not a ground for profit or subject experiments.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely, Kenneth Brito

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Kaya Perce <kayaperce@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 7:19 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

You don't often get email from kayaperce@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am a New Mexico resident and I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project. I request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, Indigenous communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer—the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna—which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. I have learned that Indigenous and land-based communities are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. They emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. I strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. I join in calls to refuse to let Indigenous communities be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,
Kaya Perce

From: [Abigail Peterson](#)
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Mining Application
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 8:56:48 PM

You don't often get email from abigailgpeterston@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to request a public hearing regarding the proposed uranium mining project in Cibola county. I am very concerned about this project and the impact it could have on local and indigenous communities in the area.

There is a history of environmental abuse and irresponsibility that negatively impacts indigenous health and wellness and I am concerned about this with this mining project. As a member of another tribe- the Yavapai Apache Nation, I want to stand in solidarity with the people of this land and advocate for local indigenous perspectives and concerns regarding this project to be heard and honored on the land that has been stewarded by them since time immemorial.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Abigail Peterson

February 17, 2026

Erin McCullough, Mining and Minerals Division

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It may Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan of the proposed La Jara Uranium Mine. My Name is Manuel F. Pino a citizen of the Pueblo of Acoma and a retired sociology and American Indian Studies Professor.

As a lifelong resident of Acoma Pueblo I am strongly opposed to the proposed La Jara Mesa Mining Project and request an in-person hearing to fully address the mining permit application to ensure that Indigenous and local communities are given their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent to fully address environmental, health and cultural concerns before any authorization or mining development begins. Due to the fact that we live in the heart of the Grants Mining District, we as Acoma people have endured the aftermath of uranium mining and milling for decades. We have witnessed deterioration of our health particularly cancerous related illnesses, renal and respiratory ailments. The contamination of our surface and subsurface water rights impacting both quality and quantity. The deterioration of various environmental elements—including air quality, adverse effects on flora and fauna, and soil contamination, especially in areas designated for agriculture and livestock grazing remain significant concerns.

Numerous mines and mills in the Grants Mining District have not been fully reclaimed therefore how can future mining be considered when super fund sites still in the area are not fully reclaimed. Our sister Pueblo Laguna and the village of Paguete facilitated the Jackpile Open Pit Uranium Mine for over 30 years. Laguna tribal members are still not fully aware of health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation from what was once the largest open pit uranium mine in the world! How can future uranium mining even be considered with all these important issues not fully addressed by the federal and state governments.

The opening of a new mine in the Grants Mining District would further contaminate groundwater and surface water sources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andreas-Glorietta Aquifer the primary source of drinking water for Acoma and Laguna Pueblos would be further contaminated. Another major concern is the close proximity of the La Jara Mesa Mine to our sacred mountain Mount Taylor (Kaweshtima) which was designated a Traditional Cultural Property by the state of New Mexico. Public concern also involves the transportation and the storage of nuclear waste in our homeland. An in-person public hearing is necessary to protect the human rights of New Mexico citizens before any future mining is considered. Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on this important matter that will impact future generations for decades!

February 16, 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I live in Socorro County and I recreate throughout the state of New Mexico. I believe that all people in the state on New Mexico deserve to live their lives free from uranium pollution.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Cari Powell

Socorro, NM

2/17/26

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting comments on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Fawn Reed of the Pueblo of Laguna and currently I reside in Albuquerque. I frequently travel to my family home located in the village of Pagate, NM on tribal lands.

I strongly oppose the afore mentioned project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding indigenous communities are given Free, Prior and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorized or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

My community of Pagate and other nearby communities continue to deal with the catastrophic and detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, related deaths and environmental degradation and contamination associated with the fallout of the Jackpile mine decades later, which continues to be prevalent now in 2026.

My stepfather worked at the Jackpile mine and later became ill with significant lung diseases which also affected his heart and quality of life. He died in 2025 as a result of these horrendous illnesses. Many of the community members from the village of Pagate community have died from cancer. The Pagate village people, livestock, farming, crops and homes throughout the years of mining by the Jackpile mine were affected by the dust from the open transportation of the uranium, from the blasting and from the earth movement from the blasting. Many homes became uninhabitable and/or required ongoing repairs, such as my family home in the village of Pagate.

The significant health hazards, environmental contamination and scaring of the earth from the Jackpile Mine remain unresolved to date.

The opening of another mine would only exacerbate the current detrimental impact on people's health and the environment, including the groundwater and surface water. The people and the environment continue to be affected by the Jackpile Mine. In addition, if another uranium mine is opened the environmental and health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste is of deep concern.

The opening of a new mine in the proposed project site within the boundaries is detrimental to the protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor which holds a deep spiritual significance to the Pueblo of Laguna, Acoma and Zuni and the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, other Rio Grand Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apache's. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries and continues and will continue to be used by these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities for many generations to come.

We as indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

Fawn Reed

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Jay Reed <coudsdyuwe224@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 3:54 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

You don't often get email from coudsdyuwe224@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Julliene Reed-Tso of the Pueblo of Laguna and I reside in the village of Pagate, NM on tribal lands.

I strongly oppose the afore mentioned project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding indigenous communities are given Free, Prior and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorized or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

My community of Pagate and other nearby communities continue to deal with the catastrophic and detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, related deaths and environmental degradation and contamination associated with the fallout of the Jackpile mine decades later, which continue to be prevalent now in 2026.

My spouse worked at the Jackpile mine and later became ill with significant lung diseases which also affected his heart and quality of life. He died in 2025 as a result of these horrendous illnesses. Many of the community members from the village of Pagate community have died from cancer. The Pagate village people, livestock, farming, crops and homes throughout the years of mining by the Jackpile mine were affected by the dust from the open transportation of the uranium, from the blasting and from the earth movement from the blasting. Many homes became uninhabitable and/or required ongoing repairs, such as my family home in the village of Pagate.

The significant health hazards, environmental contamination and scaring of the earth from the Jackpile Mine remains unresolved to date.

The opening of another mine would only exacerbate the current detrimental impact to people's health and the environment, including the groundwater and surface water. The people and the environment continue to be affected by the Jackpile Mine. In addition, if another uranium mine is opened the

environmental and health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste is of deep concern.

The opening of a new mine in the proposed project site within the boundaries is detrimental to the protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor which holds a deep spiritual significance to the Pueblo of Laguna, Acoma and Zuni and the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, other Rio Grand Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apache's. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries and continues and will continue to be used by these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities for many generations to come.

We as indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry, and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,

/s/

Julliene Reed-Tso

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: RRoibal <roibal@mail.mayfirst.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2026 6:48 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Uranium mining application

You don't often get email from roibal@mail.mayfirst.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the NM Minings and Minerals Division,

I strongly urge you to deny the La Jara Mesa Mining application proposing new uranium mining near Mount Taylor in Cibola County. We have seen the deadly impacts of past uranium mining in Cibola County. Many people have died from cancers due to the mining of uranium starting over 100 years ago. The uranium mining has been devastating to the Indigenous people living in that area.

It appears that New Mexico has been designated by the US as a nuclear sacrifice zone. We have seen irreparable damage from uranium mining, nuclear waste transportation, nuclear bomb development and radioactive contamination of our air, land and water. Please stop this madness and deny any uranium mining in New Mexico.

Thank you.

Roberto Roibal

🍆 🍷 🌻 jHLVSV!

STOP URANIUM MINING ON MT. TAYLOR

Date: Feb 6. 2026

ATTN:

Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application
To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan:
La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am Teresa Sarracino - enrolled tribal

member with the Pueblo of Laguna I reside in Paraje Village

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

In addition to items stated above the operation of uranium
mining is sure to affect groundwater and contaminate it thus
causing major health implications for our community and residents throughout
the Laguna valley. Our tribal members are and have seen the effects of
the Anaconda/Hanultra mining operations with cancer and other
chronic diseases and those that have died as a result of their
proximity and working at the mines. For those reasons I strongly
oppose and will support all efforts to prevent any new mines to open.
We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Sincerely,



2/13/2026

From: [Aleia Shendo](#)
To: [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 4:36:04 PM

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Greetings,

I am writing in opposition to the La Jara Mesa proposal to open a new uranium mine in Cibola County and I am requesting that a public hearing be organized regarding this proposal. As a resident of New Mexico, I value a fully transparent process as well as other's ability to freely practice their cultural beliefs. It is known that this uranium mine will be located near Mount Taylor which is a sacred site for multiple Tribes in the state. As a New Mexican, I also value honest and sustainable futures. If approved, this mine would deteriorate the health and safety of countless fellow New Mexicans as well as desecrate an Indigenous traditional site.

I am requesting that public concern be taken into the utmost account and that a public hearing be organized regarding these matters.

Sent from my iPhone

From: sissonwesley98@gmail.com
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Opposition to Proposed Uranium Mining at Mount Taylor (La Jara Mesa Project) and Request for Public Meeting
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:58:36 PM

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Wesley Sisson



Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505

[Sissonwesley98@gmail.com](mailto:sissonwesley98@gmail.com)

218-343-8633

02-17-2026

Erin McCullough, Director

Mining and Minerals Division

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

1220 South St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Director McCullough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed uranium mining activities associated with the La Jara Mesa Project at Mount Taylor. I write as a historian holding a master's degree with a research focus on the environmental and social history of U.S. natural resource acquisition and genocide studies. My work examines how extractive industries shape landscapes, foreign policy, public health, workers' rights, and historical impact on memory across generations.

I strongly oppose the proposed uranium mining project and respectfully request that the Department convene a fully accessible and in-person public meeting to allow for meaningful community engagement prior to any permitting decisions. Given the scale of potential impacts on public health, cultural resources, indigenous legal rights, and the environment, the public deserves a transparent forum to review the project's risks, mitigation plans, and long-term monitoring commitments.

Historical evidence in New Mexico demonstrates that uranium extraction has produced enduring environmental and human consequences. Communities near the Jackpile-Paguate Mine, which closed in 1984, continue to experience contaminated soils and water resources. In addition, these residents have suffered long-term health effects that were not fully acknowledged at the time of operation. Impacts, such as cancers and birth defects are all together common at these legacy sites of pollution and their effects on the surrounding communities are multigenerational in scope. This is a necessary burden which the state of New Mexico already must continue to remedy. There are other examples across the state from the legacy of uranium mining industry... These historical precedents underscore the importance of precaution and robust public oversight before reopening uranium development in the region.

Mount Taylor is not only an ecological resource but a designated Traditional Cultural heritage site with profound cultural and spiritual significance to multiple Tribal Nations such as the Dene /Navaho and Pueblos. The historical record makes clear that projects undertaken without broad consent and sustained consultation have too often resulted in cultural loss, social upheaval, Government mistrust, and environmental injustice. Any decision affecting this landscape must therefore prioritize inclusive participation, rigorous environmental review, and respect for Tribal sovereignty.

Additionally, the project raises serious concerns regarding groundwater withdrawals, potential contamination pathways, and the transportation and storage of radioactive materials. From a historical perspective, these risks are not theoretical. They mirror patterns observed in prior uranium districts throughout the Southwest where remediation costs and health burdens persisted long after economic benefits faded.

For these reasons, I urge the Department to deny or pause consideration of the permit until a comprehensive public meeting is held and until independent review fully evaluates cumulative environmental, cultural, and public health impacts. Transparent engagement is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that lessons from New Mexico's uranium legacy are not repeated.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your commitment to protecting New Mexico's communities, cultural heritage, and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Wesley Sisson

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Bonnie Sundance <bonniesundance@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 11:20 AM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

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<<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

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Attn. Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division

Dear People,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am the Executive Director of the nonprofit Our Sacred Earth, and hugely concerned about any activity or action which disrespects and degrades any life on Earth.

Do not begin uranium mining which is toxic to people's and the lands' health.

Last month, Laramide Resources, Inc., submitted an operations plan to the state of New Mexico supporting the La Jara Mesa Project, which proposes underground mine development, operation, and reclamation within the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands over a 20-year time span for uranium.

This area has already been severely impacted by the legacy of uranium mining, resulting in chronic illnesses and additional risks for community members. It also disregards traditional cultural property protected under the Historic Preservation Act that holds cultural importance to the people of Acoma Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Navajo Nation, and other Native communities.

Public Lands meant to care for both the Earth and The People should not be mined for uranium.

Uranium mining ceased in New Mexico nearly 40 years ago. Respect that. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The people of New Mexico also deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

No new uranium mining!

Respectfully,
Bonnie Sundance

--

Bonnie Sundance, Masters Library Science

Our Sacred Earth <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.our-sacred-earth.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmmd.marp%40emnrd.nm.gov%7Cf20bdf857fda4a8b573a08de6d88029b%7C04aa6bf>>

4d436426fbfa404b7a70e60ff%7C0%7C0%7C639068631078449780%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCislldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZXu7vvAzsf46ubIEY%2F%2F5IKPxqPsYl3jG9jW22ev9n74%3D&reserved=0> , Executive Director
Care for the Earth as you live your Life, it depends on your doing so.

We live in the homeland of the Ute, Arapaho and Cheyenne, seeking to understand what it means to be in Right Relationship with them and with a history that took these lands from them illegally, and which we benefit from.

Join me in participating with:

Alternative Radio

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Mountain Forum for Peace

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Pachamama Alliance

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11th Hour Calling for Climate Action

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Time Bank of Boulder

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Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Ean Tafoya <eantafoya@greenlatinos.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 11:50 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Permit

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2/17/26

ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am commenting on Laramide Resources Mining

Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Ean Thomas Tafoya the Vice President of State Programs for GreenLatinos, a national environmental justice nonprofit. My father, aunts, and primos all reside in New Mexico. My cousins are wildland firefighters for the state. We love our land and our community. Our ancestors lived loved, and are buried here.

I and GreenLatinos strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Pagate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Pagate Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public

health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste.

This 38 page permit is weak in its

1. Inadequate Characterization of Radioactive and Hazardous Materials.
2. Deficient Design of Clay-Lined Ore Storage Pad. Clay liners alone are insufficient to prevent radionuclide migration, particularly under freeze-thaw conditions common in Cibola County. Uranium-bearing materials can generate contaminated seepage through infiltration. Recommendation: Require a composite liner system (synthetic + clay), leachate collection, groundwater monitoring wells downgradient, and radon emission controls.
3. Transportation Risk Analysis Is Incomplete. Without this information risk cannot be fully assessed nor mitigated. Though transportation to UT seems likely. Require a transportation risk assessment and emergency response coordination plan with state and Tribal authorities.
5. Prohibit use of uncharacterized waste rock for structural fill and require radiological survey data prior to any surface use.

We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, a Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional culture properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities. This is infuriating and completely disrespectful of cultures and violations of our laws. This volcano is sacred and our ancestors knew that as we do today when we are in the awe of its presence when we are present on the landscape

The forest service and the state of NM have born the financial costs for remediation and the people suffer the radioactive harm of legacy mining waste.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

Lastly, I can't emphasize enough how challenging it was to navigate to the documents for permit review. Websites of different formats and fonts styles is clearly outdated and as a public administrator in previous roles makes it hard to engage. Without the Pueblo Action Alliance this would have been nearly inaccessible even with my training. We have no business authorizing new mines, especially with deficiency permits like this.

No to La Jara Permit

Sincerely,

Best Regards,

Ean Thomas Tafoya
GreenLatinos
Vice President of State Programs

eantafoya@greenlatinos.org

720-621-8985



Tewa Women United

1003 E. Fairview Lane
Española, NM 87532
505.747.3259
info@tewawomenunited.org

17 February 2026

Erin McCullough
Director, New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

Ms. McCullough,

Defending our shared lands, airs, and waters is our inherent responsibility as Indigenous and land-based peoples. In that same mindset, I also want to express my thanks for giving the community a chance to share our values, as they pertain to the Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine.

My name is Chenoa Scippio and I am the Project Coordinator for Tewa Women United's Environmental Justice Program. Tewa Women United comes from the Tewa Words *wi don gi mu* which can be translated as 'we are one' in mind, heart, and in the spirit of love for all. As a Pueblo women-led organizations rooted in our Tewa homelands and committed to the protection of the health, cultures, and rights of all Pueblo peoples, we are hopeful that the collective community comments ensure that New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division fully considers the environmental, cultural, and public health impacts of this project on our communities, lands, waters, and traditional practices.

Nung Ochuu Quiyo, our Mother Earth, deserves protection and the right to be considered as a living and life-giving entity. We submit these comments not only as a matter of environmental review, but as an act of cultural survival and defense of our right to live in safety and dignity on our current Tribal lands and ancestral lands. We strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. Consent must be sought sufficiently in advance of any activities that have the potential to threaten our lands and ways of life, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property. Mount Taylor holds deep spiritual and cultural significance to the Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna; Navajo Nation; Hopi Tribe; several Rio Grande Pueblos; and Jicarilla Apache Nation. The mountain is home to active significant traditional cultural property within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many Indigenous Peoples for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Our relatives of the Pueblo of Laguna, specifically of the village of Paguate and surrounding land-based communities are still living with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. At the time of Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, many communities were unaware of the extent of the consequences of living next to extractive industry. These consequences include, but are not limited to, negative health impacts like chronic illness and cancer, death, heavy metal contamination, and the poisoning of our waters, lands, and airs.

Any new mining activity in this area will severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. Water is a sacred being in many communities, and the importance of water cannot be understated. Mining activities have historically had disastrous impacts on the SanAndres Glorietta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna. In addition to the environmental implications, what is the plan for the new health risks that will emerge from transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste? Is healthcare considered for workers and community members who live near this site?

In conclusion, Tewa Women United along with our Indigenous and frontline community members urges the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division to deny the permit application for the proposed La Jara Mesa Mine. Tribal Nations who depend on the sacred site of Mount Taylor must be addressed as sovereign governments, not merely as stakeholders. Through collaborative, respectful dialogue, meaningful consultation, and shared stewardship, we believe that it is possible to move forward in a way that protects our lands, honors our shared cultural values, and ensures a healthier future for generations yet to come.

Kuuda wo 'ha, Thank you,
Chenoa Scippio

Project Coordinator
Environmental Justice Program, Tewa Women United
chenoa@tewawomenunited.org
505.747.3259 ext. 108

From: [R](#)
To: [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cibola County Uranium Mine
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:35:08 PM

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Greetings,

I am writing in opposition to the La Jara Mesa proposal to open a new uranium mine in Cibola County and I am requesting that a public hearing be organized regarding this proposal. As a resident of New Mexico, I value a fully transparent process as well as other's ability to freely practice their cultural beliefs. It is known that this uranium mine will be located near Mount Taylor which is a sacred site for multiple Tribes in the state. As a New Mexican, I also value honest and sustainable futures. If approved, this mine would deteriorate the health and safety of countless fellow New Mexicans as well as desecrate an Indigenous traditional site.

I am requesting that public concern be taken into the utmost account and that a public hearing be organized regarding these matters.

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: J Winqvist <jordanwinqvist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 6:03 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

You don't often get email from jordanwinqvist@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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ATTN:
Erin McCullough, Director, Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. I am

Jordan Winqvist, Co-Chair, Environmental Human Rights Committee, National Lawyers Guild.

I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding

Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mini activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Paguete and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine.

At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in

1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026.

The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer– the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna– which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public

health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, a Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

I work as an attorney in Pueblo communities and can see how they depend on the vitality of their ecosystems.

We as Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

-Jordan Winqvist

Rynas, Samantha, EMNRD

From: Matt Yeoman <matt_y75@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:54 PM
To: MARP, MMD, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] La Jara Mesa Uranium Mining Permit Application

[You don't often get email from matt_y75@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Laramide Resources Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan: La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine. My name is Matt Yeoman and I strongly oppose the La Jara Mesa Project and request an in-person hearing regarding the mining permit application to ensure that surrounding Indigenous communities are given Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of mining activities, as stated in The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There has not been uranium mining in New Mexico for 40 years. The village of Pagate and surrounding Indigenous and land-based communities are still dealing with the detrimental environmental and health effects from the Uranium Mine. At the time of the Jackpile mine's closure in 1984, our communities were unaware of the health impacts, chronic illnesses, and environmental degradation and contamination that would show up decades later, and still be prevalent now in 2026. The opening of a new mine in this region would severely impact groundwater and surface water resources. The extraction of groundwater from the San Andres Glorieta Aquifer— the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna— which is already highly contaminated and appropriated. We are also concerned about the environmental and public health hazards that would arise from the transportation and storage of radioactive material and waste. We would like to emphasize that the proposed project sits within the boundaries of a protected Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), Mt. Taylor, which holds deep spiritual significance to the western Pueblos of Acoma, Zuni, and Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, several Rio Grande Pueblos, and the Jicarilla Apaches. The mountain holds both significant traditional cultural properties within its boundaries, and continues to be used by many of these tribes for a variety of traditional cultural and religious activities.

Indigenous and frontline communities strongly oppose continued resource extraction in the Southwest, United States. The people of New Mexico deserve safe employment opportunities that do not pass down generational illnesses and cancers. We refuse to be sacrificed for the development of nuclear energy and weaponry and we demand that our government pay its reparations to the communities impacted by environmental racism and the toxic legacy of uranium mining.



PUEBLO OF ACOMA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Charles P. Riley, Governor
Davy D. Malle, 1st Lt. Governor
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February 10, 2026

State of New Mexico
Energy, Mining, and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
1220 S. St. Francis Dr
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: La Jara Mesa Project Mine Operations and Reclamation Plan (CI008RN)
Comments submitted electronically to: mmd.marp@emnrd.nm.gov

Dear Director McCullough:

The Pueblo of Acoma submits the following comments on the Mine Operations and Reclamation Plan (MORP) for the La Jara Mesa Project (CI008RN). The Pueblo also requests a public hearing pursuant to NMSA 1978, §§ 69-36-1 et seq. and NMAC 19.10.9.904.

The Pueblo of Acoma strongly opposes this project. We have deep concerns about impacts to our air, land, and water, and in particular, cultural resources in and around the project area and Mt. Taylor, as described further below. We reiterate our previous opposition to this project as expressed in the December 2024 consultation between the Pueblo and the Mining and Minerals Division. As stated during that meeting and memorialized in the Pueblo of Acoma's written statement, "The Pueblo of Acoma strongly opposes this project. Our opposition stems from deep concerns about environmental justice, water resources, and cultural preservation. . . . We cannot and will not accept Acoma being treated as a downstream and downwind sacrifice zone for yet another uranium project."

The Pueblo of Acoma also reiterates the consistent opposition of the All Pueblo Council of Governors to the La Jara Mesa Mine with the goal of protecting Mt. Taylor. *See* All Pueblo Council of Governors Resolution No. 2024-12; AIPC Resolution Nos. 2006-19; 2007-12. Specifically, Resolution No. 2024-12, states, "the All Pueblo Council of Governors strongly opposes the proposed Laramide Resources La Jara Mesa Uranium Mine project and calls upon federal and state agencies to deny all permits and authorizations for this project[.]" Further, the All Pueblo Council of Governors "calls upon the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division and Environment Department to recognize the cultural significance of Mt. Taylor in their regulatory processes and deny state permits that would enable this destructive project[.]" The APCG Resolution states that the La Jara Mesa Mine project threatens to "[d]isrupt and disfigure sacred landscape and cultural sites through blasting and heavy equipment operations" and "[i]mpact groundwater resources through the extraction of groundwater. . . [which are] the primary source of surface water for the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna[.]" Additionally, the Resolution highlights the environmental and public health hazards through uranium ore transportation, storage, and potential land, water, and natural resources contamination, including significant noise and light pollution, fundamentally altering the character, viewshed, integrity, and cultural worldview of this sacred landscape.

The protection of Mt. Taylor is essential for the continuation of traditional cultural practices and the preservation of Acoma cultural identity. The Pueblo of Acoma urges the Mining and Minerals Division of the New Mexico Energy, Mining, and Natural Resources Department to deny any and all permits or authorizations, including the pending application, that would compromise the integrity of the Mt. Taylor TCP designation.

The Pueblo provides specific comments to the La Jara Mesa Project Mine Operations and Reclamation Plan (CI008RN) below:

1. Important sections of the MORP lack substance and detail, including section 2.4.11.4 (inadequate ventilation in mines impacting worker safety), section 2.4.7 (water use and management), section 2.5 (impacts to wildlife), and sections 2.8 and 2.9 (discussing reclamation activities). More detailed planning should be provided throughout the MORP, but especially in these sections given significant community concerns and lasting impacts to people and resources. The lack of detail prevents MMD from imposing clear, measurable, and enforceable permit conditions and therefore undermines the MORP's adequacy as a basis for permit approval.
2. Section 2.1.6 indicates that 40,000 to 50,000 tons of uranium-mineralized material may be removed for testing. The scale of proposed bulk sampling raises questions as to whether these activities functionally resemble early production mining and therefore warrant the same level of containment, monitoring, and financial assurance as full-scale operations. This amount far exceeds the amount that is expected to be mined there daily, and it is unclear why this amount of material needs to be tested. There are also no details regarding specifications and efficacy of the clay liner to be used to store the material. There are no details regarding how often material will be transported off-site to the testing facility, and there is no maximum capacity identified of how much material can remain on site at a time. This information is critical for a thorough review of the proposal.
3. Section 2.4.1 does not include information on the number of trucks expected to transport uranium material daily or how often or to where or on which route. It is important for the surrounding communities to know how many trucks carrying radioactive material are on the road at any given time. Advanced notice should be provided to tribal, city, and county governments so they are aware of and can plan for any accidents and/or releases on the roadways.
4. Section 2.4.2 relies on synthetic precipitation events and incomplete local precipitation records to size stormwater controls, without presenting sensitivity analyses, calibration, or validation demonstrating that proposed containment features are robust under extreme or compound storm scenarios. The MORP does not address uncertainty associated with changing precipitation intensity and sequencing, nor does it demonstrate that proposed controls are conservative under plausible worst-case or compound storm conditions. The Pueblo requests that MMD deem the MORP incomplete until such baseline data has been submitted and reviewed.
5. Section 2.4.2 proposes a two-stage stormwater contact pond system in which the lower pond is intentionally unlined and designed to allow water to percolate into the ground. This design constitutes an affirmative infiltration pathway for runoff originating from all contact water. This

creates a pathway for contaminant migration beyond the mine footprint. Allowing industrial stormwater to percolate into the subsurface is inconsistent with a protective groundwater management approach unless and until Laramide demonstrates, with conservative assumptions and site-specific data, that such infiltration poses no risk to groundwater quality. The Pueblo requests that MMD require lined containment for stormwater ponds, seepage analyses for any lined structures, downgradient groundwater monitoring, and enforceable response actions if leakage or contaminant migration is detected.

6. Section 2.4.2.1 of the MORP acknowledges that the high-density polyethylene liner proposed beneath ore and waste rock stockpile areas could be ripped or torn by heavy equipment during operations. This admission highlights a fundamental vulnerability in the proposed containment system. At a uranium mining site, liner failure creates a direct pathway for leaching and migration of metals and radionuclides, particularly during storm events. The MORP does not provide sufficient detail regarding liner thickness, subgrade preparation, protective layers, quality assurance and quality control procedures, inspection frequency, or contingency measures in the event of liner damage. The Pueblo requests that MMD require detailed engineered liner specifications, construction Quality Assurance/Quality Control documentation, operational protection measures, and a clear stop-work and remediation protocol if liner integrity is compromised. In addition, the MORP's reliance on statements that waste rock will not generate acid drainage does not address potential leaching and mobilization of uranium-related constituents, which must be evaluated using site-specific geochemical testing and incorporated into containment and monitoring requirements.
7. Section 2.4.6 indicates ore will be transported to an off-site mill for processing. The applicant should disclose the mill that will accept the ore, to avoid a situation where uranium is mined and cannot be accepted at a mill for processing, either due to mill overcapacity or some other limitation.
8. Section 2.4.7 discusses water use and management, but the MORP fails to meaningfully discuss what water sources will be used to support mining, bulk sampling, dust control, and ancillary operations, or any impairment to existing water rights in the area, the potential for water contamination, controls to lessen risk to water resources, and continued monitoring. *See 2022 Cibola Forest Land Management Plan, Standards for Locatable Minerals, 109* (requiring suitable interim and post-project surface and groundwater monitoring to be implemented to detect adverse changes). The MORP states that water will be "purchased" and that multiple potential sources may be identified, yet no specific supplier, point of diversion, transport route, water rights basis, or contingency supply is disclosed. At the same time, the MORP estimates sustained operational water use of up to approximately 61.4 gallons per minute (about 99 AFY, nearly double the estimated water usage from the 2012 DEIS) at maximum operation and acknowledges that these estimates may change as operations proceed. This lack of specificity prevents meaningful evaluation of water availability, drought resilience, cumulative depletion, and potential impairment of interconnected groundwater and surface water systems relied upon by the Pueblo of Acoma and other downstream communities. Prior to any permit approval, MMD should require Laramide to identify the specific water source(s), demonstrate that the supply is legally and physically available under foreseeable drought conditions, and commit to enforceable limits on water use, metering,

reporting, and advance approval for any change in source or increase in demand. Because water systems in this region are hydrologically interconnected and fails to meet present needs, inadequate disclosure of sourcing and consumption also prevents assessment of cumulative impacts to water resources relied upon by the Pueblo of Acoma and neighboring tribes and communities.

9. Section 2.4.10 discusses anticipating a waste rock stockpile to hold 270,000 cubic yards of waste rock. It is unclear how this waste rock dump will be protected from the elements and how contamination will be kept on site rather than flow to ground or surface water in the event of rain or flooding. The danger to groundwater is amply demonstrated by the present situation at the Homestake site.
10. Section 2.4.11.1 discusses the construction of new roads and upgrades to existing roads. The increase in traffic in this area further disrupts the cultural significance of Mt. Taylor and increases the chances of vandalism to cultural sites.
11. Section 2.4.11.3 describes the dry facility available for workers including lockers and showers. This section fails to describe protocol to prevent workers from taking contaminated materials and clothes home with them.
12. Section 2.4.11.4 describes the proposed ventilation. Poor mine ventilation was a leading cost of cancer-causing health conditions. Inadequate ventilation also increases the likelihood of uncontrolled releases of contaminated air, dust, or radon to the surface environment, with potential off-site impacts beyond worker exposure. Laramide should demonstrate that the proposed ventilation is sufficient to protect people's health.
13. Section 2.4.11.8 references the need for outdoor lighting to accommodate the mine operating 24 hours a day. The 24 hour a day light pollution destroys an important component of the cultural significance of Mt. Taylor. The outdoor lighting disrupts the serenity of the mountain, critical to traditional practitioners, those on pilgrimage, and those collecting plants and medicinal plants. The light (as well as noise) also effects wildlife in the area.
14. Section 2.4.11.9 describes relying on the City of Grants to provide hospital and ambulance services. The city should verify the hospital is prepared to handle radioactive-related accidents, that the proper resources are available, and that there are trained personnel.
15. Section 2.5 notes that the impacts to state-protected species, migratory birds, and raptor impacts need continued evaluation. Any permits should be denied until this evaluation is complete and there is a finding that no protected species will be impacted by this project. We are also concerned with impacts to wildlife who may get through the fencing. Some community members rely on game for sustenance and cultural activities. Impacts to wildlife from the mine operating 24 hours a day needs further evaluation, including effects from noise and light pollution and risk of exposure to contaminated water sources, soils, and stored material or stockpiles.

16. Section 2.8 should include interim reclamation requirements for unforeseen shutdown or temporary cessation. *See* 2022 Cibola Forest Land Management Plan, Standards for Locatable Minerals, 109.
17. Section 2.8 should include details on the potential exposure to radionuclides that may impact people and the environment. *See* 2022 Cibola Forest Land Management Plan, Standards for Locatable Minerals, 110. These concerns are magnified where the MORP proposes infiltration-based stormwater management and on-site disposal of materials.
18. Section 2.8.2 should include specific timelines for reclamation. Continued monitoring of the area is needed to ensure no contamination goes offsite, this includes ground and surface water monitoring.
19. Section 2.8.2.4. of the MORP relies on general statements that waste rock will not generate acid drainage. This does not address potential leaching and mobilization of uranium-related constituents, which must be evaluated using site-specific testing and incorporated into containment and monitoring requirements.
20. Section 2.8.2.6 estimates reclamation costs based on 30-year-old MMD Closeout Plan Guidelines. MMD must require cost estimates and bonding assumptions that reflect current engineering practice, inflation, and uranium-specific long-term monitoring needs.
21. Section 2.9 proposes a closure timeline measured in months and emphasizes short-term regrading and revegetation, with a minimum post-closure monitoring period. For a uranium mining project, reclamation success cannot be defined solely by surface stabilization and vegetation establishment. Long-term protection of water quality and containment of radiological and geochemical contaminants is the core reclamation issue. This concern is heightened by the MORP's proposed use of infiltration features and its plan to bury demolished concrete pads on site as "clean fill" (*see* Section 2.8.2.2) without describing radiological clearance criteria or documentation. The Pueblo requests that MMD require a comprehensive post-closure monitoring and maintenance plan addressing groundwater, surface water, and containment features, supported by financial assurance sufficient to cover long-term stewardship and unplanned cessation scenarios. No materials from operational areas should be disposed of on-site unless demonstrated to be uncontaminated, including radiological screening where appropriate, with all documentation included in the administrative record.
22. Section 2.11 defers critical baseline information to a forthcoming update Baseline Data Report in summer 2026, while simultaneously asserting definitive conclusions regarding the absence of toxic drainage potential. A MORP must stand on its own as a complete and reviewable permit application; conclusions cannot be reasonably evaluated where the underlying data have not yet been provided. The Pueblo requests that MMD deem the MORP incomplete until baseline data are submitted and reviewed.

23. Section 4.1.2 relies on future consultation under the U.S. Forest Service's Section 106 process and anticipates that mitigation measures for adverse effects to the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property ("TCP") will be identified through a later memorandum of understanding. While federal consultation processes are ongoing, the Pueblo emphasizes that MMD may not approve a state mining permit based on unspecified future mitigation developed outside the state permitting record. Cultural inventories for the permit area are described as "in progress." Laramide acknowledges that it will "comply with all avoidance and or mitigation measures" which may materially alter aspects of the MORP. Therefore, MMD should deem the application incomplete until the Section 106 process is complete and any avoidance and or mitigation measures are finalized that alter the MORP. Further, MMD is subject to the NM Cultural Properties Act: 18-6-8.1, Review of proposed state undertakings, which requires the historic preservation division of the office of cultural affairs to periodically furnish copies of the official register, or relevant sections of the official register, to state agencies and departments and to periodically advise state agencies and departments of the status of the division's program of cultural property identification and registration. The head of any state agency or department having direct or indirect jurisdiction over any land or structure modification which may affect a registered cultural property shall afford the state historic preservation officer a reasonable and timely opportunity to participate in planning such undertaking so as to preserve and protect, and to avoid or minimize adverse effects on, registered cultural properties.
24. Section 4.1.2 fails to describe adequate mitigation measures for the protection of Mt. Taylor as a TCP on the NM Register of Cultural Properties. This designation was affirmed by courts and reiterated by the New Mexico state legislature as recently as the 2024 legislative session. The Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project recognizes that the proposed action would have an adverse effect on the Mt. Taylor TCP. A full ethnographic study of the area should be completed by the Pueblos and their experts. Ethnographic studies done by Acoma Pueblo and Laguna Pueblo in the area indicate that culturally significant plants may be present at the La Jara Mesa site. Other resources may be there as well.
25. Section 4.1.2 fails to protect the attributes that earned Mt. Taylor a TCP designation, including its visual resources and value. The TCP designation honors the necessity of protecting Mt. Taylor for the continuation of traditional cultural practices and the preservation of Acoma Pueblo's cultural identity. This project would fundamentally alter the character, viewshed, integrity, and cultural worldview of this landscape. The Mt. Taylor TCP encompasses not just discrete archaeological sites, but traditional cultural landscapes, shrines, pilgrimage routes, plant gathering areas, and viewsheds that are susceptible to direct and indirect impacts from activities described in the MORP.
26. Sections 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 fail to describe the effect activities on site will have on aquifers and downstream waters. While the MORP generally asserts that mining will not affect groundwater because operations are above the regional aquifer **no site-specific hydrogeologic analysis is provided** to demonstrate that any infiltrating water (*see* comment on 2.4.2) cannot mobilize metals, radionuclides, or other contaminants and migrate through fractures, perched zones, or connected groundwater systems. At a minimum, MMD should require submission of site-specific hydrogeologic cross-sections or a conceptual site model demonstrating groundwater flow paths,

potential perched zones, and connectivity to downgradient waters. There is not enough data on the hydrologic conditions in the area, therefore, there is a greater amount of uncertainty and risk for Acoma and surrounding tribes and communities that may be impacted by effects to groundwater.

27. Section 4.1.10 fails to describe potential releases from stockpiled uranium ore and material on site.
28. Section 4.1.11 indicates accordance with NMAC Section 19.10.6.603(H) but the MORP fails to adequately describe plans on how to attain this.

The MORP is deficient and fails to provide details on important components of the project—primarily worker safety, reclamation, impacts to water, and most importantly, how the project will protect and honor the Mt. Taylor TCP and cultural resources in the area. Further, the purpose of EMNRD's Tribal Collaboration and Communication Policy is to foster, facilitate, and strengthen positive government-to-government relations. Permitting the destruction of a sacred mountain destroys the stated intent of state-tribal collaboration. Without true understanding of what the mountain means to not just Acoma Pueblo, but other Pueblos and Tribes throughout the state and the southwest, and by permitting mining on this sacred mountain, consultation is relegated to a series of meetings, not meaningful consultation.

Nothing in the Pueblo's comments should be construed as acceptance of the MORP's assumptions, conclusions, or deferred analyses. The Pueblo expressly reserves the right to supplement these comments upon submission of the Baseline Data Report, final engineering designs, and any revised materials. Given the preliminary nature of several design elements, the deferral of critical baseline data, and the reliance on future processes to define mitigation, the Pueblo urges MMD to require a complete, fully supported, and enforceable MORP before considering permit approval, and to provide opportunities for meaningful public and Tribal review of all substantive revisions.

We urge the Mining and Minerals Division to join us in the preservation of Mt. Taylor and deny La Jara Mesa's permits.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF ACOMA



Charles P. Riley
Governor

cc: Chestnut Law Offices, P.A.

The La Jara Mesa mine is too close to Mount Taylor and to communities that are still seeing adverse health effects from uranium mining.

Research at the University of New Mexico focused on Indigenous communities living near mine waste and being exposed to mixed metals from abandoned uranium mines shows that 20%-35% of Navajo people including children have uranium levels higher than 95% of the US population and while there are around 20% of people in these studies with low levels of overall exposures those with the highest levels have high levels of multiple metals such as arsenic, uranium, and vanadium that are connected with health outcomes of cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disease, risk of pre-term birth and developmental delays^{1,2}.

All of this research comes from and is guided by community concerns of what is happening to their communities living with this mine waste for so long. The over 500 mine waste sites are still not cleaned up or remediated.

Some of the first ever health studies at the Pueblo of Laguna, 45 miles east of Albuquerque, NM have also just been started in partnership with UNM. This Pueblo in NM between Eastern Navajo Nation and Albuquerque, also near Mount Taylor has been living with waste from the Jackpile mine. The Jackpile mine was once the largest open-pit uranium mine in the world and no one has looked at levels of metals and uranium in this community or looked at health issues in a systematic way.

Starting a new mine near Indigenous communities, when health studies have barely been done on communities who have already been living near uranium mines and living with the blasting and mining in the past is short-sighted.

People have asked for these studies for years. Instead of the studies, the government want to fund more mining. This is in an area that has shown high levels of mixed metals, uranium, and radon in water and in soils³. In all these ongoing studies we not only see the association between living near mines and health issues with epidemiological studies, but when samples are taken back to the lab research shows evaluation at the cellular level is consistent with what is seen in communities.

When serum from blood samples in participants was placed onto human cardiovascular tissue in the lab, it showed that the serum from those with higher exposures increased markers of inflammation and atherosclerosis and in-vitro mouse studies showed that exposure to dust from mine wastes caused increased aortic vessel constriction and lessened relaxation^{4,5}. These studies matched evidence that these exposures cause vascular issues and hardening of arteries which increases risks for strokes and heart attacks. Lab results show that exposures are linked to increases in proteins and biomarkers in the blood that lead to autoimmune diseases, lead to the body being out of balance, attacking itself, and this increases risk for cancers and other chronic diseases.

Metals waste is being eroded from abandoned mines and mill sites and because it is now in such small particles in the dust it can be inhaled and get deep into the lungs and then the blood-stream.

Laboratory and animal models to show that exposure to dust from the mines causes changes on a cellular level in the digestive system and in the brain when inhaled, because these particles on dust are so tiny (nano-sized) that they get into the lungs and then into the blood stream to influence other parts of the body^{6,7}.

Starting another mine without more research on health and environmental effects and sharing that knowledge widely with nearby communities should be strongly opposed.

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Sincerely,

Carolyn Roman

Carolyn Roman, PhD.


Cedar Crest, NM