

**From:** [Dustin Hopinkah](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Acoma Pueblo Community Member  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 5:45:13 PM

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I am from the Pueblo of Acoma, a people who have honored and supported a sustaining mountain range, Mount Taylor, for thousands of years.

This is a request for a public hearing regarding the Roca Honda Mining application.

Not considering public comments leaves local communities victim to an externality- a decision made that impacts those not involved in the decision making. This is an economic issue, a scarcity issue, a social welfare issue. A reiteration of past activities done by outsiders, but impact those locally. Please do not let the same story live again.

Thank you for your time,

Dustin Hopinkah  
Pueblo of Acoma  
M.A. Economics, University of New Mexico

**From:** [Sofie Hecht](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Roca Honda Mine Plan of Operations and Mine Operations and Reclamation Plan (MORP)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 2:39:18 PM

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Dear Director, Mining and Minerals Division,

**I am submitting this public comment in strong opposition to the approval of the Roca Honda Uranium Mine MORP.** There are people in this area and around the region who have already paid too high a price for uranium extraction and the development of this mine would only jeopardize their safety and communities even further.

Families in the Grants Mineral Belt and surrounding Tribal communities continue to live with the contamination, health burdens, and broken promises left behind by earlier mining. No agency should ask these communities to bear another round of risk so that a private company can profit from a landscape that is already overburdened.

**I also support a public hearing as this review must begin with the people most affected.** Tribal Nations, residents, and downwind and downstream communities deserve more than a narrow technical analysis. They deserve a full accounting of cumulative harm, meaningful consultation, and a decision-making process that does not repeat the same pattern of environmental injustice that has defined uranium mining in New Mexico for generations.

**Importantly, the proposed mine also threatens Mount Taylor, a sacred living landscape for multiple Tribal Nations.** Mount Taylor is not simply a backdrop or a viewshed to be managed. Any review that treats harm to this place as minor, mitigable, or merely visual would fail to understand what is at stake for the communities who have protected this mountain for generations.

Water impacts are especially alarming. Recent reporting on the revised plan states that the project would require major dewatering and discharge treated groundwater to the Rio San Jose, raising serious concerns in a drought-stressed region where water is already precious. Communities should not have to wonder whether another uranium project will drain aquifers, affect springs, or leave future generations with less safe water and more contamination to manage.

The Forest Service must also fully address the cumulative public health consequences of

renewed uranium mining. For communities that have already lived through the legacy of uranium contamination, these are not abstract concerns.

For all these reasons, this MORP should not be approved among requests for public hearing to impacted communities.

Sincerely,

Sofie Hecht  
1212 Lead Ave SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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**Sofie Hecht**  
she/her/hers  
email: [sofiedh@gmail.com](mailto:sofiedh@gmail.com)  
phone: 347-601-5333  
website: [sofiehechtphoto.com](http://sofiehechtphoto.com)  
instagram: @sofiehecht

**From:** [AnneMarie Bowles](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Roca Honda Mine Plan  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 11:58:28 AM

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Dear Director, Mining and Minerals Division,

I'm submitting this public comment to strongly oppose approval of the Roca Honda Uranium Mine MORP because the people who live in and around this region have already paid too high a price for uranium extraction. Families in the Grants Mineral Belt and surrounding Tribal communities continue to live with the contamination, health burdens, and broken promises left behind by earlier mining. No agency should ask these communities to bear another round of risk so that a private company can profit from a landscape that is already overburdened. As a New Mexican resident, I care deeply about this land and the people living here, and I find extraction of our priceless natural resources to be unacceptable.

I'm demanding a public hearing as this review must begin with the people most affected. Tribal Nations, residents, and downstream communities deserve more than a narrow technical analysis. They deserve a full accounting of cumulative harm, meaningful consultation, and a decision-making process that does not repeat the same pattern of environmental injustice that has defined uranium mining in New Mexico for generations. The proposed mine also threatens Mount Taylor, a sacred living landscape for multiple Tribal Nations. Mount Taylor is not simply a backdrop or a viewshed to be managed. Any review that treats harm to this place as minor, mitigable, or merely visual would fail to understand what is at stake for the communities who have protected this sacred mountain for generations.

The water impacts of this project are especially alarming. Recent reporting on the revised plan states that the project would require major dewatering and discharge treated groundwater to the Rio San Jose, raising serious concerns in a drought-stressed region where water is already precious. Communities should not have to wonder whether another uranium project will drain aquifers, affect springs, or leave future generations with less safe water and more contamination to manage.

The Forest Service must also fully address the cumulative public health consequences of renewed uranium mining. For communities that have already lived through the legacy of uranium contamination, these are not abstract concerns.

For all these reasons, this MORP should not be approved among requests for public hearing to impacted communities. Until the people that are and will be most impacted by this project are consulted, it is deeply immoral and irresponsible to move ahead this this project.

Sincerely,  
AnneMarie Bowles  
3022 22nd Ave SE, Rio Rancho, NM

**From:** [Jeanette Howard](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Deny Roca Mines permit/need hearing  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 11:13:25 AM

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Ben Shelton, Acting Director, Mining and Minerals Division:

- YGI's application should be denied by NMED because YGI **failed to include information about Bloom Energy's problematic history**. Bloom Energy has been cited by the EPA for **illegally dumping its hazardous waste into public landfills**.
- **Bloom Energy's Solid Oxide Fuel Cells are not clean energy—they are small combustion cells that generate harmful air pollutants and hazardous solid waste.**
- Permitting any microgrid—in reality, more like a *mega-grid*—facility will result in a clear example of **environmental racism**. NMED is *required* to ensure no group of people bears a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences. Doña Ana County residents already bear the disproportionate burden of environmental pollution compared to the rest of New Mexico.

Thanks. Please deny this permit; don't allow NM environment to be degraded.

Best regards,

Jeanette Howard  
Project Manager, Certified Peer Support Worker, PeopleSoft ePerformance Consultant,  
Grant Writer  
Mobile 505 453 7875

**From:** [Joan Brown](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hearing for rocha Honda mine  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 9:05:50 AM

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Please have a hearing for proposed new rocha honda mine. As a franciscan sister, I see this as an ethical and moral concern that requires communities to be heard in dignity and for their voices to be heard. New Mexicans continue to suffer from legacy mining. We must care for our sacred land, water, and climate. Please act in justice and ethics by requiring a hearing. I have been part of solidarity efforts with MASE as ND community members for decades and solidarity with those most affected is vital.

Peace and gratitude for your careful decision in this matter.  
Sister Joan Brown, OSF

**From:** [pamela renick](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Is there a public meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026 7:06:41 AM

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**From:** [Carla Sakiestewa](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Listen to The People! Stop Roca Honda Uranium Mine!  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 12:29:36 PM

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Mr. Roybal-Chavez,

I am writing today to oppose the Roca Honda Uranium Mine. Energy Fuels Inc., Inc announced 5/19/2026 that they submitted a complete Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan (MORP) to the State regarding the Roca Honda mine. This would be the first uranium mine to operate in New Mexico in over 40 years.

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 what was once the world's largest uranium mine, the Jackpile mine which a large open pit mine operated on in the Pueblo of Laguna from the 1950's to their closure in 1979. This mine has caused the Pueblo and surrounding communities to 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. We cannot talk of opening new mines, until this historic contamination is dealt with. Furthermore, there is no permanent permitted facility in the country to take uranium waste.

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 McKinley County, but everyone downwind and downstream of the site. The Mining Operations Resource Plan fails to adequately address preservation of the TCP and the cultural resources in and around the TCP.

Secondly, we are concerned about the dewatering of the Westwater Canyon Member aquifer. Initial dewatering could reach approximately 2,000 gallons per minute according to Energy Fuels. We understand that once a mine is dug and the aquifer is being depleted, wastewater will have to be treated in perpetuity. There is no going back.

The All Pueblo Council of Governors has issued a statement opposing uranium development in the Mt. Taylor region, referencing the proposed La Jara Mesa mine, which is in similar proximity to the TCP. Acceptance of this MORP would be in opposition to their statement. It is important that tribes are not only consulted with, but truly listened to in this process. The council has made it clear that they do not support this operation and therefore, your office should not accept the MORP.

I oppose the Roca Honda Mine, the land is sacred and our Mother. This mining is

akin to colonizer rape and molestation of our Mother. Oligarch corporation greed is destroying us. They are sucking up what little viable water, we have, they leave radioactive soil that yields no crops, no meat to feed The People! Listen and Stop! New Mexico needs viable sustainable soil to keep our NM People healthy for our future children!

Sincerely,

Carla Sakiestewa  
Hopi / Oglala Lakota

**From:** [Laurie Maitre](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No more uranium mining  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 5:28:29 PM

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This state and its citizens, and most of all our indigenous citizens, have suffered enough.

Neither federal nor state resources have finished cleaning up past mining contamination sites. Shame on everyone.

Please deny this and future uranium mine applications.

Laurie Maitre in Santa Fe NM

**From:** [bramble botanicals](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No new uranium mines.  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026 7:32:41 AM

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I'm writing to voice my opposition to the Roca Honda mine, as well as any new uranium mine proposed in the future. We have already seen the devastating impact to communities downstream and downwind, and so many people live with cancer and inherited mutations due to uranium exposure, especially in our Indigenous communities like Acoma, Laguna, and the Navajo Nation, who all live with the remains of past uranium mining projects and spills. People who live near the labs breathe contaminated air.

Trucking uranium through our communities furthers the reach of exposure and is absolutely unacceptable. New Mexico is not a sacrifice zone and our land, water, air, humans and all creatures deserve health and safety. Uranium for more weapons development and for "clean" energy that kills us slowly if it breaks down doesn't benefit everyday people. It benefits billionaires and warmongers. No thanks.

**From:** [Sandra A](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to Uranium mining  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 2:19:06 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to request a community meeting for the proposed Roca Honda Uranium mining project. I am a resident of New Mexico since before 1969. I'm also aware of the deep and complicated history in this area. I'm worried that this project will pollute our waters and put our communities at risk.

New Mexico has a sad history of uranium mining. Whole generations of Navajo story tellers lost their lives in despicable, painful ways to uranium mining during WWII. Water was polluted as well.

Please, conduct a community comment meeting with the local residents during an accessible time.

Please, review and educate yourselves on the history of this area.

Thank you,  
Sandra Almand

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

**From:** [Deidre Koch](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please refrain from approving Energy Fuels, Inc.'s proposal to mine uranium near Mount Taylor  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 2, 2026 11:27:22 AM

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Please refrain from approving Energy Fuels, Inc.'s proposal to mine uranium near Mount Taylor.

Mount Taylor holds significant cultural and spiritual importance for multiple Indigenous tribes in New Mexico, including the Navajo (Diné), Acoma, Laguna, Hopi, and Zuni peoples. The mountain is traditionally regarded as the southern directional post, central to cultural narratives, daily prayers, and communal gatherings.

Concerns raised by opposition groups include:

**Water Depletion and Contamination:** Environmental and Indigenous organizations, such as the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment, have expressed concerns regarding the dewatering process. They contend that pumping billions of gallons of water could severely deplete regional aquifers, and that discharging the treated wastewater could jeopardize the Rio San Jose.

**Cultural Threats:** Indigenous activists, including the Pueblo Action Alliance, are actively advocating for the preservation of the sacred landscape from industrialization. They emphasize that this project has not been undertaken in the region for the past four decades.

Please protect this important land.

Sincerely,  
Deidre Koch

**From:** [Katherine Shera](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Proposed Roca Honda Uranium Mine (MK025RN)  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 9:24:53 PM

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June 19, 2026

Subject: Public Comment on the Proposed Roca Honda Uranium Mine (MK025RN)

Dear Acting Director Shelton,

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine (MK025RN) and to request a thorough review of the Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan (MORP), including a public hearing, before any decisions are made by state agencies.

Given the scale of the proposal and its potential impacts, this decision deserves the highest level of scrutiny. The proposed mine raises significant concerns about water resources, Mount Taylor's cultural significance, environmental justice, and the long-term impacts of uranium mining.

One of those concerns is water.

According to the MORP, the proposed mine would extend approximately 1,600 feet underground and intersect the Westwater Canyon Aquifer, requiring extensive groundwater pumping, or "dewatering," in order to access uranium deposits. Company documents indicate that the projected 320 day Phase 1 groundwater pumping phase could reach a total rate of 2,000 gallons per minute, which could last up to 12 years.

Communities throughout the region rely on groundwater for drinking water, domestic use, agriculture, and cultural practices. Water is already scarce in western New Mexico, and climate change is placing increasing pressure on water resources.

The 2013 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project disclosed significant long-term groundwater impacts, including substantial aquifer drawdown near the mine site and impacts that could persist for generations after mining operations cease. The DEIS also identified potential impacts to springs that hold cultural importance to Indigenous communities.

Given the scale and duration of these predicted impacts, the Division should not approve this proposal without a comprehensive analysis of long-term aquifer drawdown, groundwater recovery, climate-related water stress, water quality impacts, and cumulative impacts from the multiple proposed uranium projects in the region.

I am also deeply concerned about the legacy of uranium mining in New Mexico.

Communities across the Grants Uranium Belt and the Navajo Nation continue to live with contamination, abandoned uranium mine sites, and lasting environmental and health impacts associated with historic uranium mining. Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines remain unremediated today – more than 500 on the Navajo Nation alone – and many affected communities are still waiting for the cleanup, remediation, and accountability they were promised.

These unresolved impacts should weigh heavily against approval of new uranium mining projects in a region where no legacy mines have been cleaned up.

The proposed mine also raises serious concerns regarding Mount Taylor, a designated Traditional Cultural Property that holds deep cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial significance for many Indigenous communities. Roca Honda is one of several uranium mining proposals advancing near Mount Taylor, raising concerns about cumulative impacts to a landscape that has long been recognized as sacred.

The significance of Mount Taylor cannot be adequately evaluated on a project-by-project basis when multiple uranium

proposals are advancing in the same region. The Division should require a cumulative impacts analysis that evaluates the combined effects of current and proposed uranium projects on water resources, cultural resources, community health, and future generations.

I also urge the Division to fully consider environmental justice concerns as part of its review. Indigenous and rural communities have disproportionately borne the impacts of uranium mining for generations. Environmental justice cannot be reduced to holding one public meeting or a public comment requirement. It should inform how impacts are evaluated, how risks are distributed, and how decisions are made. I encourage the Division to consult the Multistate Guidance on Environmental Justice issued by 14 state Attorneys General, including New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez.

I am also concerned that federal efforts to accelerate domestic uranium production could undermine thorough review of projects like Roca Honda. Both Roca Honda and La Jara Mesa have received attention as part of broader federal efforts to fast-track uranium development. The Trump administration's efforts to accelerate review make a rigorous state review process even more important. Accelerated timelines should not result in reduced scrutiny of groundwater impacts, cultural resources, environmental justice concerns, or cumulative impacts.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Mining and Minerals Division:

- Conduct or require a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis that evaluates the combined effects of multiple uranium projects proposed near Mount Taylor.
- Require additional analysis of the long-term impacts of groundwater pumping, aquifer drawdown, water quality, water treatment, and future climate conditions.
- Fully evaluate environmental justice concerns and historic disproportionate impacts on Indigenous and other land-based communities.
- Ensure meaningful consultation with Tribal governments and consideration of concerns raised by affected communities.
- Hold a public hearing in the affected region so community members can ask questions, share concerns, and participate directly in the review process.

The concerns raised by this proposal are not minor or speculative. They involve long-term groundwater depletion, impacts to culturally significant places, unresolved uranium contamination across the region, and environmental justice concerns affecting communities that have already borne disproportionate burdens from uranium mining.

Until these concerns are fully evaluated and addressed, the Roca Honda proposal should not move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Shera  
Santa Fe

**From:** [Alicia Chavez](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposed Roca Honda Uranium Mine (MK025RN)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 5:44:22 PM

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June 15, 2026

Dear Acting Director Shelton,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine and to request a public hearing before any decisions are made.

The proposed mine raises serious concerns about water resources, Mount Taylor's cultural significance, environmental justice, and the long-term impacts of uranium mining in New Mexico.

According to project documents, the mine would require extensive groundwater pumping in order to access uranium deposits. Communities throughout western New Mexico rely on groundwater for drinking water, agriculture, domestic use, and cultural practices. Given increasing water scarcity and climate pressures, I urge the Mining and Minerals Division to carefully evaluate the long-term impacts of groundwater pumping, aquifer drawdown, water quality, and cumulative impacts from multiple uranium projects proposed near Mount Taylor.

I am also concerned about the legacy of uranium mining in New Mexico. Communities across the Grants Uranium Belt and the Navajo Nation continue to live with contamination, abandoned mine sites, and lasting environmental impacts decades after mining ended. Many affected communities are still waiting for cleanup and accountability.

The proposed mine is located near and partially within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property. Mount Taylor holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for many Indigenous communities and should not be evaluated in isolation from the other uranium mining proposals advancing in the region. A cumulative impact analysis should be required.

I urge the Division to consult the Multistate Guidance on Environmental Justice issued by 14 state Attorneys General, including New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez to fully consider environmental justice concerns, meaningful Tribal consultation, and the disproportionate impacts uranium mining has had on Indigenous and rural communities.

I am also concerned that federal efforts to fast-track uranium development could undermine thorough review of projects like Roca Honda. Decisions that could affect water, culturally significant places, and future generations deserve careful scrutiny and meaningful public participation and Tribal consultation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Mining and Minerals Division:

Conduct a cumulative impacts analysis for uranium projects near Mount Taylor.

Fully evaluate long-term water impacts and future climate conditions.

Consider environmental justice concerns and engage in meaningful Tribal consultation.

Hold a public hearing in the affected region.

Until these concerns are fully evaluated and addressed, the Roca Honda proposal should not move forward.

Water should go to people and food first, and mining decisions need to account for generations into the future, not just now.

Sincerely,

Alicia Sofia Chavez  
Life long NM resident

**From:** [mynameisjill](mailto:mynameisjill)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Hearing for Roca Honda Uranium Mine Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 4:22:40 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to you as an extremely concerned New Mexican calling for a public hearing about the proposed Roca Honda uranium mine. Community members, like myself, have a right to voice their thoughts about a project that would affect their health and wellbeing over a lifetime.

The mine would be located at a sacred place with cultural significance for indigenous people. The amount of groundwater that would be needed to be pumped to run the mine is of grave concern, as well. We are a water scarce state, and it is unclear how a working mine would affect the availability of water, an element essential to life. Abandoned mines that have not been fully cleaned up have left a legacy of contamination and radioactive waste in their wake.

The public has a right to have their voices heard to help shape their lives and the future of family and community members.

Thank you,

Jill Bailey  
Albuquerque

**From:** [Marlene Perrotte](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#); [marlenep@swcp.com](mailto:marlenep@swcp.com); [acurtis@swuraniumimpacts.org](mailto:acurtis@swuraniumimpacts.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public hearing for Roca Honda  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 5:38:10 PM

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**To:** Ben Shelton, Acting Director, Mining and Minerals Division;

The proposed mine would be located near and partially within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property and would require extensive groundwater pumping to access uranium deposits.

As a supporter of Multi-Cultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) I am also concerned that Roca Honda Uranium Mine (RCR) dewatering, uranium extraction, and discharge plans do not address plans to address downstream contaminant mobilization due to mine water discharge or communication between the target aquifer and adjacent aquifers. Inter-aquifer contamination seems likely, given the significant number of existing unplugged boreholes on site and an extensive San Mateo Creek Basin fault and paleo-channel network. Moreover, mine de-watering will expose minerals to oxygen, which will cause them to move more freely throughout the aquifers. RHR must address how it intends to mitigate movement of oxygenated minerals.

Use of the West water aquifer as a potential drinking water source in New Mexico during a time of prolonged drought and drying climate should also be analyzed.

I encourage and request that you and your division hold a public hearing would allow a more thorough and probing inquiry into these and other shortcomings.

Thank you, Sister Marlene Perrotte

**From:** [Janet M Berry](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding Mining of Uranium in the shadows of Mt Taylor  
**Date:** Thursday, June 18, 2026 2:52:13 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

I'm so disappointed that yet again, mining companies think that the whole Mother Earth can be dug up and spat out with no respect for the communities, cultural significance, illnesses caused by the extractions and irresponsible disposal of the waste into the rivers that support life and ecosystems.

Though of course, never in your backyard. New Mexico has been a science experiment since the Trinity site as we are considered a third world country. Shameful!!!

What ignorance, denial, and sinful all in the name of greed. Skip it and find a career that **MAKES A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE** in the world.

Thank you.

Janet M. Berry  
Santa Fe, NM

**From:** [DANNY DEMAGS](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Public Hearing Regarding Roca Honda  
**Date:** Saturday, June 13, 2026 8:28:33 AM

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Hello, thank you for reading this email.

I am writing to you prior to the June 19th 2026 deadline to request a formal public hearing regarding Roca Honda mining near Mt. Taylor.

I do not believe the planned mining operation fully explains the impact on the public and indigenous nations who have traditional cultural sacred sites in the vicinity.

My name is Daniel Francis DeMaggio.

I've been a resident of New Mexico since coming to work here in 2019.

I live in 87501 zipcode. I worked for many years with Meow Wolf and still collaborate with its founders and designers.

I have been studying nuclear policy and see New Mexico as a crucial intersection of America's past mistakes while simultaneously offering the nation solutions that adapt our cultures to climate change and legacy pollution.

Thank you.

Take care, and I look forward to hearing from you.

-Daniel F. DeMaggio

**From:** [Cal H](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for public hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026 9:38:39 AM

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Attention,

This is a written request for a public hearing regarding the proposed Roca Honda Uranium mine operation at Mount Taylor.

Thanks!  
Calandra Ahasteen

**From:** [Judith Buckingham](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request hearing on Rico Hondo  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 9:06:26 AM

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Request hearing on Rico Hondo

**From:** [Silas Grant](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Requesting a public hearing re Roca Honda Uranium Mine  
**Date:** Thursday, June 18, 2026 10:52:30 AM

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You don't often get email from silasporellegrant@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 Roca Honda Uranium Mine. Given the devastating history of uranium mining in New Mexico, the state must not allow new uranium mining or reopen legacy mines.

I am deeply concerned about the potential of this mine to dewater and deplete the aquifer, and of the risks posed by treated waste water which is planned to be transported via pipeline and discharged into the Rio San Jose.

Mount Taylor has been designated as a Traditional Cultural Property. Mount Taylor is an area of cultural and spiritual significance to Pueblo and Dine peoples, who have already endured health threats and environmental contamination from legacy uranium mining.

MMD must ensure meaningful Tribal consultation and public engagement regarding this proposal.

For these reasons and others, it is critical that the public and directly impacted communities have the opportunity to weigh in on this proposed mine. Multiple public hearings should be held in impacted communities, city centers where community members reside, with virtual options for accessibility.

Thank you,

Silas Grant  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**From:** [Sara Beltran](#)  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RHR's mine  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 1:03:22 PM

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

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Hello,

I am SUPER concerned that RHR's mine dewatering, uranium extraction, and discharge plans are dismissive to address GRAVITY and the fact that the aquifer is right THERE!!!!

I want to have children someday but the idea of them having to choose to drink toxic water in a chance for survivals make it ZERO enticing. Please do not grant this permit.

PLEASE and THANK YOU.

Gracias,  
**Sara B.**

*Better to do a good deed near at home than go far away to burn incense.*  
-Amelia Earhart

**From:** [Sarah Aushman](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Roca Honda Uranium Mine Application  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 10:11:23 PM

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

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To whom it may concern,

I live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am writing to request a public hearing for the people of McKinley County regarding how this project will impact them and their land. Mount Taylor has been established as a Traditional Cultural Property under the Historic Preservation Act in 2009 and holds significant cultural identity and wellbeing to the indigenous people of New Mexico.

Thank you very much for your time,

Sarah Aushman

**From:** copper.top@gmx.us  
**To:** [MARP, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Roca Honda  
**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026 4:30:45 PM

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You don't often get email from copper.top@gmx.us. 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.

Please hold a hearing on the proposed uranium mining. The harms from previous uranium mining in and around this culturally significant area have not been adequately addressed. The state should not even consider new uranium mining applications when they risk contaminating our precious water supply. Thank you.

**From:** [Linda Johnson](#)  
**To:** [MARF, MMD, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Uranium Mine Permit Application  
**Date:** Friday, June 5, 2026 10:12:48 PM

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

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No new permits for uranium mining until all abandoned mines are cleaned up to safe standards!!

It's only common sense!

L. Johnson

## Gray, Maille, EMNRD

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**From:** Sam Baltz <sam.a.baltz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2026 1:51 PM  
**To:** MARP, MMD, EMNRD  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Opinion Regarding proposed reopening of Uranium mining in New Mexico

You don't often get email from sam.a.baltz@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,

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



Ben Shelton  
Acting Director, Mining and Minerals Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
[mmd.marp@emnr.d.nm.gov](mailto:mmd.marp@emnr.d.nm.gov)

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

June 15, 2026

Re: Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment and New Mexico Mining Watch request for hearing on Roca Honda Resources, LCC's Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan, Permit No. MK025RN, Roca Honda Mine

Dear Acting Division Director Shelton:

On behalf of the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment ("MASE") and New Mexico Mining Watch ("NMMW"), please accept the following request for a hearing on Roca Honda Resources, LLC's ("RHR") proposed Mining Operations and Reclamation Plan ("MORP"). MASE and NMMW also intend to submit written comments prior to any scheduled hearing.

The Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment was founded in 2007, when a collection of grassroots frontline uranium impacted communities joined together as a multicultural coalition to address legacy contamination in the Grants Uranium Mining District of northwestern New Mexico; the prevention of future contamination from new uranium developments; the protection of local Indigenous sacred places; and the protection of their rights to clean and safe drinking water and a healthy environment.

MASE works to restore and protect the natural and cultural environment by respectfully promoting intercultural engagement among communities and institutions for the benefit of all life and future generations. MASE is made up of four core groups: Laguna Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment, Red Water Pond Road Community

Association, Eastern Navajo Dinè Against Uranium Mining, and the Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance.

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 diverse range of Native and non-Native communities affected by historic and current mining operations.

Based on a preliminary review of the MORP, NMMW and MASE have significant concerns about RHR's willingness and ability to operate its proposed mine in a way that will protect the environment, public health and safety, and Mt. Taylor's<sup>1</sup> cultural integrity.

For example, based on the vast number of archaeological sites of cultural significance in the project area, RHR's minimal strategies of avoidance and mitigation are insufficient to address the cultural and environmental impacts of its proposed mine operations. MASE and NMMW are concerned that RHR's conventional "one size fits all" approach to archaeological site management will be inadequate to protect the integrity of the mountain and San Mateo Creek Basin in the culturally rich environment of the Roca Honda Mine.

MASE is also concerned that RHR's mine dewatering, uranium extraction, and discharge plans do not address plans to address downstream contaminant mobilization due to mine water discharge or communication between the target aquifer and adjacent aquifers. Inter-aquifer contamination seems likely, given the significant number of existing unplugged boreholes on site and an extensive San Mateo Creek Basin fault and paleochannel network. Moreover, mine dewatering will expose minerals to oxygen, which will cause them to move more freely throughout the aquifers. RHR must address how it intends to mitigate movement of oxygenated minerals.

Underground mine works in the Grants uranium district, and more specifically within the San Mateo Creek Basin, are so extensive that they connect separate mining operations to one another. The introduction of yet another massive mining operation

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<sup>1</sup> The mountain is known by many names. For the sake of simplicity, MASE and NMMW will refer to the mountain by its American colonial name – "Mt. Taylor."

will trigger more groundwater contamination, further clouding the unresolved issue of background and cleanup criteria for corporate actors in the region.

Use of the Westwater aquifer as a potential drinking water source in New Mexico during a time of prolonged drought and drying climate should also be analyzed.

Schoeppner, Jerry *“Groundwater Remediation from Uranium Mining in New Mexico”* 7 *Southwest Hydrology* 22-24 (Nov./Dec. 2008).

Finally, RHR’s reclamation plan arbitrarily focuses on grazing as the predominant post-mining land. MASE and NMMW are troubled that RHR’s MORP fails entirely to address the cultural uses of the site during mine operations or as a post-mining land use.

These are just a few examples of why RHR’s MORP is inadequate. A public hearing would allow a more thorough and probing inquiry into these and other shortcomings. MASE and NMMW respectfully request a public hearing on the MORP and RHR New Mexico Mining Act permit application.

Sincerely,



Eric Jantz  
Legal Director  
New Mexico Environmental Law Center

**From:** [Ennis, David, EMNRD](#)  
**To:** [Gray, Maille, EMNRD](#)  
**Cc:** [Rodriguez, Stephanie, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on MK025RN Roca Honda MORP  
**Date:** Monday, June 1, 2026 8:13:33 AM

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Let's talk later today about edits to the website.

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**From:** Maestas, Yeny, EMNRD <[Yeny.Maestas@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:Yeny.Maestas@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 1, 2026 7:20 AM  
**To:** Ennis, David, EMNRD <[david.ennis@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:david.ennis@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on MK025RN Roca Honda MORP

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**From:** Rodriguez, Stephanie, EMNRD <[stephanie.rodriguez@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:stephanie.rodriguez@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2026 3:25 PM  
**To:** Maestas, Yeny, EMNRD <[Yeny.Maestas@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:Yeny.Maestas@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Roybal-Chavez, Drew, EMNRD <[Drew.RoybalChavez@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:Drew.RoybalChavez@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on MK025RN Roca Honda MORP

FYI

Stephanie J. Rodriguez  
Mining and Minerals Division  
Financial Services Section  
[stephanie.rodriguez@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:stephanie.rodriguez@emnrd.nm.gov)  
(505) 660-4777

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**From:** Liliana Castillo <[mailservices@sks.com](mailto:mailservices@sks.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2026 1:52 PM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Stephanie, EMNRD <[stephanie.rodriguez@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:stephanie.rodriguez@emnrd.nm.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment on MK025RN Roca Honda MORP

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**Name**

Liliana Castillo

**Email**

[lilianarcastillo@gmail.com](mailto:lilianarcastillo@gmail.com)

**Subject**

Public comment on MK025RN Roca Honda MORP

### Message

Hello! I am very concerned about the Roca Honda mine. I am aware that the company has filed the MORP for the Roca Honda mine. However, I am distressed to find no information about public comment on the plan on your website. Based on past experience, I believe there is a 60 day public comment window - however, no such public comment information is listed under Public Notices or Press Releases nor on the Roca Honda page on your website.

Given that the MORP was filed on May 18 and it has been two weeks, I am concerned about the lack of transparency around the public's ability to weigh in on this significant project.

Please advise as to the opportunities around public comment and when those will be made available to the public broadly via your website.

Thank you,  
Liliana