



Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium (TBDC) is a grassroots organization that was founded in 2005. Our purpose is to bring attention to the negative health effects suffered by the people living adjacent to the Trinity test site subsequent to their overexposure to high levels of ionizing radiation that occurred on July 16, 1945, with the explosion of the Trinity atomic bomb test. For more information about our organization, please go to: www.trinitydownwinders.com or we would be glad to meet with your organization for a full presentation of our work.

- **DID YOU KNOW**

- There were families living as close as 12 miles to the Trinity test site in 1945 and there were thousands of families, men, women and children living in a 50 mile radius. If you extend the radius to 150 miles it encompasses Albuquerque to the north and El Paso to the south. That would mean that hundreds of thousands of people were exposed.
- The bomb was a plutonium based bomb and it was packed with 13 pounds of weapons grade plutonium but only 3 pounds of the plutonium fissioned. The remaining 10 pounds of plutonium was joined with the soil, sand, animal and plant life and incinerated. The resultant fireball exceeded the atmosphere and penetrated the stratosphere traveling more than 7 miles high. An ash fell from the sky for days afterwards.
- The bomb produced more heat and more light than the sun. Many people who we've spoken to that were alive at the time thought they were experiencing the end of the world.
- Plutonium has a half life of more than 24,000 years. Once the radioactive ash fell from the sky as fallout it settled on everything on the soil, in the water and on the skin of every living thing both human and animal.
- In 1945 most if not all the small villages inside a 50 mile radius of the Trinity Site had no running water. The water sources at the time were cisterns, holding ponds or irrigation ditches. As a result of the fallout the water sources were contaminated.
- In 1945 there were no grocery stores in the small villages surrounding the Trinity site. All the meat, dairy and produce people consumed was raised, harvested or grown by them. It too was contaminated.
- Since 1990 the US Government has been compensating "Downwinders" of the Nevada Test Site. The fund set up to extend compensation and medical care is called the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). The Downwinders in New Mexico have never been included or compensated although they were the first people to be exposed to radiation any place in the world. Furthermore, it is well documented that the people of New Mexico were downwind of the

In Pursuit of Justice for All Those Who Were Damaged



above ground tests that took place at the Nevada Test Site through the summer of 1962 yet the compensation ends at the Arizona, New Mexico border.

- The fund has paid out more than 2.5 billion dollars in claims and has provided much needed health care coverage to some of those that qualify. If the health care coverage was extended to the Downwinders of New Mexico it would save lives and reduce the financial burden to patients and families as they travel from their rural communities to receive treatment traveling long distances and sometimes out of State.
 - The TBDC is fighting for the same compensation and for health care coverage. We often say we don't want one dime more or one dime less than what other Downwinders are receiving today and have received for over 31 years.
 - On June 27, 2018, Tina Cordova as a representative of the TBDC testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee about the need to amend the RECA in order to compensate the New Mexico Downwinders. The testimony is available at: <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/examining-the-eligibility-requirements-for-the-radiation-exposure-compensation-program-to-ensure-all-downwinders-receive-coverage>. The hearing begins at 20 minutes. Tina Cordova, co-founder of TBDC, begins her testimony at 1:02:20 minutes.
- On March 24, 2021, Tina Cordova as a representative of the TBDC testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The testimony is available at; [Examining the Need to Expand Eligibility Under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act | U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee](#) Tina Cordova, co-founder of the TBDC, begins her testimony at 51:14 minutes.
- The TBDC is working on behalf of bills introduced in Congress to Amend the RECA to include the people of New Mexico and the Post 71 Uranium miners/workers. 2021 will be the 11th year bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate without a vote on the floor. The original RECA bill will sunset in 2022 so time is of the essence.

To help the TBDC, sign-up to receive alerts, or learn more about our work please go to: www.trinitydownwinders.com.