New Mexico is NOT a Nuclear Wasteland

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Nuclear Colonialism

...is the systematic dispossession of indigenous lands, exploitation of cultural resources, and the subjugation and oppression of indigenous peoples to further nuclear production of energy and proliferation of weapons from uranium mining, uranium processing, weapons testing, and waste storage, resulting in the destruction of indigenous peoples and cultures and creation of National Sacrifice Zones.

Sources:
1 Nader & Gusterson, *Half Lives and Half Truths*
2 Compilation of Definitions of Nuclear Colonialism from LaDuke, Churchill, and Benally
Contamination in NM from Nuclear Fuel Chain

- Legacy of Uranium Mining & Milling
- Uranium Enrichment (Urenco)
- Testing of First Atomic Bomb (Trinity)
- DU Experimentation (NM Tech)
- 2 National Weapons Labs (LANL, SNL)
- Deep Geological Repository for Transuranic Wastes (WIPP)
- Low-Level Waste nearby (WCS)
- Other Sites (UNM, Buggy Explosion, et al)
- Proposed CIS and Possible Reprocessing?

• NO COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUMs)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates¹:
- 15,000 U mine locations in 15 western states (most in CO)
- 75% of those on federal and tribal lands

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates²:
- 4,225 defense-related U mines
- Approximately 11% of the 4,225 mines are on tribal lands and other areas where poverty, linguistic isolation, limited educational opportunities, and other factors contribute to increased vulnerability to pollution.

Sources
¹ https://www.abandonedmines.gov/wbd_um.html
² https://www.energy.gov/lm/articles/working-group-addresses-abandoned-uranium-mines
Navajo Nation Sovereignty

- Diné Natural Resources Protection Act, 2005
- Radioactive Materials Transportation Act, 2012
- Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
  - United Nations, 2007
  - Organization of American States, 2016
  - Article XXII. Indigenous law and jurisdiction
- Protection of health of people, elements, Sacred Places, future generations

RISKS TO DINE BIKEYAH FROM PROPOSED TRANSPORT

Map by Diné No Nukes & Rezist Designz

Above: Map of Navajo Nation, Diné Four Sacred Mountains, and rails through Arizona & New Mexico

HOLTEC & WCS Proposed Nuclear Waste
Article XXII. Indigenous law and jurisdiction

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

2. The indigenous law and legal systems shall be recognized and respected by the national, regional and international-legal systems.

3. The matters referring to indigenous persons or to their rights or interests in the jurisdiction of each state shall be conducted so as to provide for the right of the indigenous people to full representation with dignity and equality before the law. Consequently, they are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection and benefit of the law, including the use of linguistic and cultural interpreters.

4. The States shall take effective measures in conjunction with indigenous peoples to ensure the implementation of this article.
Radiation Affects Women & Children the Most

HEALTH EFFECTS OF URANIUM ON PREGNANT WOMAN

BRAIN
- Radon (α) (3.8 days)
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
- Lead-210 (β) (22 years)

LUNGS
- Radon (α) (3.8 days)
- Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)
- Lead-210 (β) (22 years)
- Polonium-210 (α) (138 days)
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)

PANCREAS
- Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)

DIGESTIVE TRACT
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
- Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM
- Uranium (α) (1000s of years)
- Polonium-210 (α) (138 days)
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
- Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)
- Lead-210 (β) (22 years)

Uranium (α) (1000s of years)
Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)
Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
Lead-210 (β) (22 years)

Uranium (α) (1000s of years)
Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)
Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
Lead-210 (β) (22 years)

Muscle
- Potassium-42: Beta (20 years), 12 hours
- Cesium-137: Beta (20 years), 30 years
- Cesium-137: Beta (30 years), 30 years

Spleen
- Polonium-210: Alpha (138 days)
- Thorium-230: Alpha (77,000 years)
- Lead-210: Beta (22 years)

Liver
- Uranium (α) (1000s of years)
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
- Lead-210 (β) (22 years)

Kidneys
- Uranium (α) (1000s of years)
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)
- Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)
- Lead-210 (β) (22 years)

Bone
- Radon (α) (3.8 days)
- Thorium-230 (α & γ) (77,000 years)
- Lead-210 (β) (22 years)
- Polonium-210 (α) (138 days)
- Radium-226 (α) (1600 years)

Thyroid
- Iodine-131: Beta (20 years), 8 days
- Radium-226: Alpha (3.8 days)
- Thorium-230: Alpha (1600 years)
- Lead-210: Beta (22 years)

Skin
- Sulfur-35: Beta (20 years), 87 days
- Potassium-42: Beta (20 years), 12 hours
- Cesium-137: Beta (30 years), 30 years

Bone
- Cesium-137: Beta (30 years), 30 years
- Carbon-14: Beta (30 years), 30 years
Southeast NM is not suitable for CIS

- Already Overburdened Area
- Permian Basin
- Sinkhole in Carlsbad
- Recent Tornado
- Lack Emergency Preparedness
Community Opposition to CIS

New Mexico

1. Lake Arthur 09/07/17
2. Albuquerque 05/21/18
3. Jal 05/29/18
4. Bernalillo County 06/12/18
5. Las Cruces 07/23/18
6. Santa Fe County 09/25/18
7. Gallup 09/25/18
8. McKinley County 10/02/18
9. Belen 11/10/18
10. Churchrock Chapter the Navajo Nation 08/15/18
12. All Pueblo Council of Governors 10/17/19

Texas

13. Nueces County 02/04/15
14. Bexar County 02/21/17
15. San Antonio County 03/30/17
16. Dallas County 04/14/17
17. Midland County 04/24/17
18. Denton County 10/16/18
All Pueblo Council of Governors Opposes Largest Nuclear Waste Transport and Storage Campaign in Nation’s History

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21st, 2019
Contact: Akili Ortega, APCG@indianpueblo.org

Pueblo leaders voice opposition to license applications to transport and store high level radioactive nuclear waste in New Mexico and Texas

Santo Fe, NM - The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representing the collective voice of the member 29 sovereign Pueblo nations of New Mexico and Texas, convened Thursday affirming commitment to protect Pueblo natural and cultural resources from risks associated with transport of the nation’s growing inventory of nuclear waste from sites across the country to proposed semi-permanent sites in southeastern New Mexico and west Texas. The Council adopted a resolution expressing opposition to the license applications by private companies. Holtec International and Intermountain Storage Partners LLC, authorizing transport nuclear materials, construction, and operation of a proposed multi-billion dollar consolidated interim storage facilities in Los Alamos, NM and Andrews County, TX.

Concerns from the Council include the lack of federal tribal consultation regarding determination of transport routes and availability of resources, training, and infrastructure for tribal emergency preparedness, response, and risk management in potential incidences of accidental radioactive release during shipment. The resolution urges a requirement for meaningful government to government consultation with Pueblos by federal regulators on transport concerns, and calls upon the leadership of New Mexico’s Congressional Delegation to take proactive steps in support of Pueblos.

“We are very concerned that this project, proposing the transport of nuclear material currently stored at 80 commercial reactors in 35 states across the country, lacks meaningful consultation afforded our Pueblos and subjects our communities, environment, and sacred sites to unacceptable risk over many decades,” said Chairman E. Paul Torres of the All Pueblo Council of Governors.

The All Pueblo Council of Governors joins growing local opposition and concern on the project including New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, the New Mexico State Land Office, three of New Mexico’s Congressional Delegation members, and many environmental groups. The City of Albuquerque, the City of Santa Fe, and the City of Los Cruces have each passed resolutions opposing the project. Many local concerns have also pointed to the absence of federal prospects for a permanent repository.

“Every community deserves to live free from the impacts of radiation, but transportation of nuclear materials puts native communities at risk of radiation contamination along the route to Holtec’s proposed storage facility. Our communities have already borne the brunt of the nuclear fuel cycle, and this country is still failing to address these contaminated sites. I stand with the All Pueblo Council of Governors to protect our resources and our families from the brutal consequences of storing nuclear materials at a temporary facility New Mexico or Texas,” said Congresswoman Deb Haaland.

Opposition ad
 Concern re: CIS Expressed from New Mexico Legislators, State Land Commissioner, and Congressional Delegation, and the New Mexico Governor
"There's nobody that's been able to demonstrate to me that there isn't risk here," she says. "There is risk. We need to be clear about that. I don't think it's the right decision for the state."

Source: New Mexico Is Divided Over The 'Perfect Site' To Store Nation's Nuclear Waste, NPR Article by Nathan Rott, April 11, 2019
CIS is **NOT** Legal

**RELEVANT FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

- **H.R. 3671** - *Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act*, 115th Congress (2017-2018), Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, (D.-HI); Introduced 09/01/2017 – being extensively revised, and will contain significant reference to nuclear issues and communities. Has a sizeable section dealing with just-transitions for fossil fuel communities,
- **S.1985**, The “Stranded Act of 2017;” Sen. Tammy Duckworth and IL Rep. Brad Schneider, in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW)– provides financial compensation and incentives for communities left with “stranded” high-level radioactive wastes (spent reactor fuel) after reactor closures (may have new numbers in new Congress); being re-written to include provisions from Marcy Kaptor’s House bill.
- Sen. Rosen (D.-NV), et al, Jobs, Not Waste Act, to close down Yucca Mt. and oppose CIS
- **H.R. 1544** and **S.649**, The Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act – consent based siting of HLRW dump,
- **Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (S. 903)**, promotes nuclear R&D, new nukes&markets; Sen. Duckworth a co-sponsor
- **H.R. 2314**: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an investment tax credit related to the production of electricity from nuclear energy. IL Co-sponsors include: Reps. Bost, Bustos, Kinzinger, and Rodney Davis
- **S. 1234**, the *Nuclear Waste Administration Act (NWAA) of 2019*; pro nuke, pro-Yucca and CIS; Sens. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.
- appropriations for Yucca Mountain and Centralized “Interim” Storage (CIS or MRS) for nuclear waste.
NM is a Majority Minority State

• Lea County, 65.7% Communities of Color
  – 59.4% Hispanic
  – 4.3% Black
  – 2% Native American

• Eddy County, 54.2% Communities of Color
  – 49.8% Hispanic
  – 2% Black
  – 2.4% Native American
CIS is Environmental Racism

Map created by Nuclear Issues Study Group (www.nuclearnewmexico.com/NISG)

Legend
- Nuclear Power Plants
- Proposed CIS Sites:
  - Holtec International
  - Waste Control Specialists

Resources
https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactors/
https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/map-power-reactors.html
https://holtecinternational.com/productsandservices/hi-store-cis/