

March 14, 1980

Herman Baca
MAPA
1837 Highland Av.
National City, Ca.

Mr. Baca,

Chicano land rights, and the suffering of Chicano workers in the uranium mining and milling industry are now becoming issues of public concern (finally).

Most people haven't heard of the struggle of the people in the Southwest who must fight the multinationals and the federal government for their land, their health and their very lives.

I've enclosed some information on these issues and how they relate to the Chicano and Native American communities.

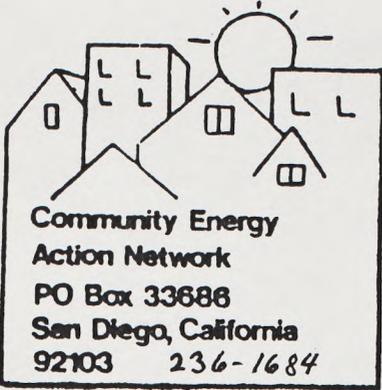
We may be having visitors from the NewMe^xico and Arizona areas to tell people in San Diego about this very soon. Possibly during "Culture Days" at San Diego State University which are sponsored by the Native Students Alliance, April 10, 11, and 12.

The interest and participation of the Chicano community would be welcome in these activities. We are inviting a Chicano and an Indian speaker to be at SDSU on one of those days.

Please contact me at home: 294-9377, or at our office: 236-1684 if you'd like more information. I'll be in touch with you soon to let you know more details. We'd really appreciate your suggestions and advice on this matter...

Sincerely,

Jim Jacobson



CHICANO LAND GRANTS

Uranium Mining Kills All
Living Things

Land Rights Rip-off

Marquez, New Mexico, 37 miles Northwest of Albuquerque, is a Chicano community originally part of a vast Spanish land grant. Large tracts of land were deeded to early settlers and their ~~ancestors~~ *Descendants* by the King of Spain in the 1600's.

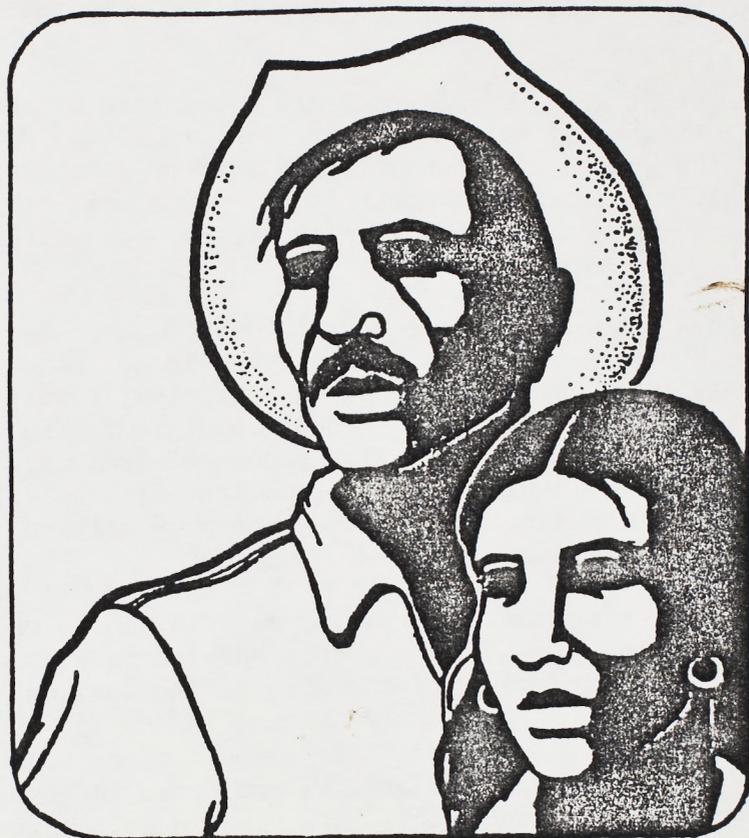
The Land Grant areas were supposedly recognized by the U.S. government when it seized the territory in 1848. But the size of the grants has been whittled away by outsiders including cattle ranchers, tax-collectors, swindlers, oil companies, and now uranium mining interests such as Gulf, Bokum, Sohio and others.

Juan Tafoya Land Grant, once a vast 200,000 acres is now a mere 3,840 acres. The mining royalty paid to the owners is only 8% of the value of refined uranium, lowest payment in the area of the small Marquez community. The site contains an estimated 10 million pounds of uranium, promised to fuel two nuclear reactors on Long Island, N.Y. Bokum resources is developing the land into a 35 million dollar mining and milling operation.

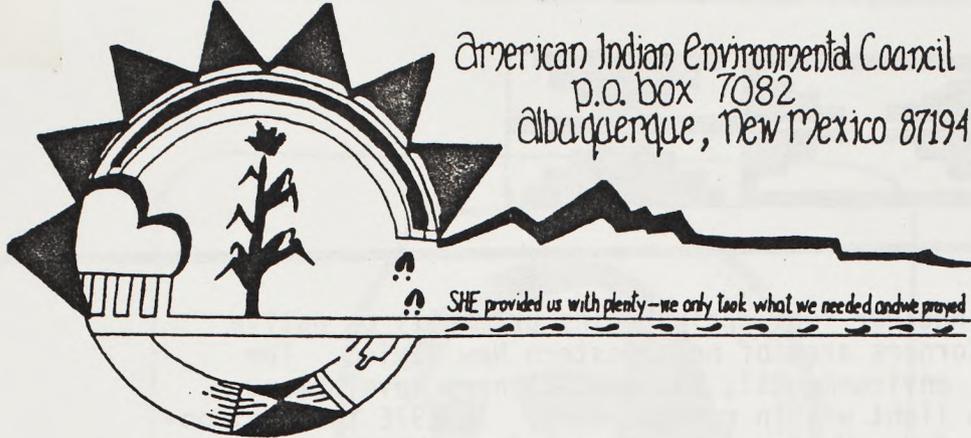
Of New Mexico's uranium reserves, more than 15% is on Chicano land grants. The Chicano people have suffered the same disastrous effects of uranium mining as the Indians of the Southwest. Miners of mostly Chicano and Navajo ancestry are dying of lung cancer. Air and water are contaminated by radiation, and the area is subjected to boom and bust economics. Chicano people have pledged solidarity with Indians in their common struggle against the big corporations' and Federal agencies' attempts to steal the land.

2
¿Energía Nuclear?

¡No, Gracias!



American Indian Environmental Council
p.o. box 7082
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87194



ONE CLEAR CALL FOR RESISTANCE

MT. TAYLOR/DALTON PASS PROTEST
APRIL 26, 27, & 28, 1980
DALTON PASS, NEW MEXICO

505/268-9800

265-1509

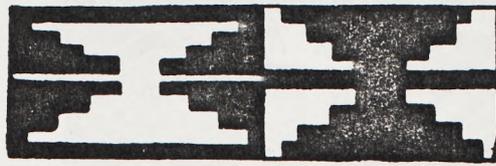
Current uranium mining and milling activity occurs predominantly in northwestern New Mexico, or what is commonly known as the San Juan Basin or the Four Corners area of the U.S. In April of 1979, 38 active mines and 5 mills were operated by 14 companies. Eight additional mines involving 3 additional companies were also under development with at least 24 other mines in various stages of discussion or planning. More than 20 companies are directly involved in these 70 existing or potential mines. All of the mines are on the homelands of Navajo, Pueblo, or Chicano peoples.

Some of the major mining corporations include Kerr-McGee, United Nuclear, Anaconda (Atlantic-Richfield), Gulf, Phillips, Mobil, Sohio, United Nuclear Homestake, and Western Nuclear. The mining of uranium for the past 30 years has made the Grants Mineral Belt the world's most active area in uranium production. With the 6-fold increase in the price of U_3O_8 in 1976, the market for the ore has expanded activity that will see a doubling of mines within the next 5 years and a 5 to 7 fold increase in production by the years 1990 thru 2000, respectively. The extent of mining that has occurred along with the projected increases for the next 15 to 20 years is a cause of major concern to all rational thinking peoples.

The market for uranium is prompted primarily by the Dept. of Energy whose strategy is based on the 1973 thru 1975 reports of the Trilateral Commission, a consortia of corporate executives, high-ranking government officials, and the security chiefs of the "western" energy consuming countries. The basic strategy is contained in the report "Energy: A Strategy for International Action" that has a thinly veiled plan to extract extremely high profits for benefit of the oil and nuclear industry thru manipulation of the world oil market and the individual consumers. The multinational oil and uranium cartels within 1979 showed profit increases over 1978 of 120 to 190%. Reports showing up in the daily media indicate that those profits are in turn being used to re-invest in uranium mining and public utility control by the corporations. At the same time, government - state, federal, BIA, etc. - continue policies which allow the corporations to increase the rates as high as the consumers will tolerate, pay the least possible severance taxes, violate environmental and health safeguards, enact "eminent domain" for land use and water rights to the corporations, and generate a "wartime psychology" on the general population; all under the guise of a need for "national sacrifice".



" WHERE THE URANIUM SLUG HAS BEEN DUMPED,
CHILDREN MADE IN THE WATER
BUT BREAK OUT IN SORES."



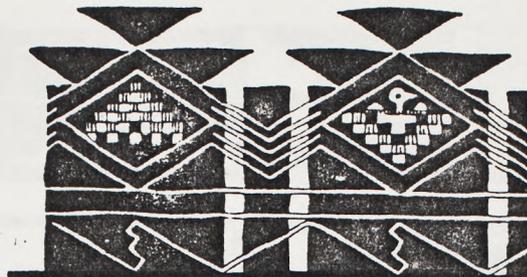
The front end of the nuclear fuel chain begins primarily on native peoples land in the Four Corners area of northwestern New Mexico. The impacts on the biological, environmental, and evolutionary development have just begun to come to light within recent years. In 1976 the Environmental Improvement Agency of New Mexico prepared its first broad study of uranium related matters. The Dept. of Interior took note, in general agreement, of this statement by a New Mexico environmental official: "State and federal controls are non-existent or totally inadequate." A considerable list of concerns has headed questions related to 1) impacts on land and water resources, 2) the safety management of millions of tons of radioactive mill tailings scattered throughout northwestern New Mexico, 3) the exposure of humans, animals, and vegetation to radiation, 4) uncontrolled mobility of radioactive isotopes thru air, water, and soil, 5) short term effects in miners - ranging from general systemic disorders to leukemia and cancer, 6) long term biological and genetic effects on human populations - such as still born births, congenital deformities and transferred genetic mutations 7) effects of the influx of large numbers of transient workers into the area - boom town situations. Each of the areas of concern can clearly show how the land, water, air, and human survival are threatened from a physiological, biological, psychological and economic standpoint. The devastation that exists today plus the 5 to 7 fold projected increase within the next 5 years means that the historical regulatory neglect by the government on the nuclear industry manifests itself in a large area of New Mexico that is today known as a "national sacrifice area".





The "national sacrifice" referred to by President Carter's national energy policy and his declaration of "the energy crisis is the moral equivalent of war", explains the policy that is not primarily for the well-being of all peoples and not even for the well-being of the majority of the people but only for the relatively short term superprofits of the nuclear industry to enhance its international superiority. In fact, by imposing conditions of destruction of the earth and its creatures, including humans, on a mass scale we come to realize that the "energy crisis" is not shared equally by nations, but again it is the peoples on whose land the resources exist that bear the brunt of not merely economic exploitation, but permanent destruction of all survival capabilities provided by natural law, to the point of producing a totally uninhabitable "international sacrifice area".





The traditional life styles and respect for the earth by native peoples of the southwest is our survival way. There are alternatives to nuclear power and adequate ways to use the other natural powers in a balanced way without the irrational recent logic of production for consumption or rather consumption for production. The U.S. constitutes 6% of the world's population and consumes, at most conservative figures, 30% of the energy. There is no need for a 3rd World War based on energy competition, much less is there a need to continue an equivalent to a war declared in Carter's national energy policy on native people, the earth, and natural ways. It is not commensurate with the energy needs of the U.S. to allow the homelands and Diné (Navajo), Pueblo, and Chicano peoples to continued genocide at the front end of the nuclear fuel chain. But it is in the best interests of all peoples to stop the exploration, mining and milling of uranium, that is to stop the nuclear fuel chain at its beginning to prevent further disasters such as the Churchrock uranium mill tailings spill, Three Mile Island, and the many others that occur continually. And to insure the safety of all humans at the point of their survival against the majority of the world's nuclear fuel and nuclear weapons needs.

The physical and spiritual gathering that will be held on April 26, 27, and 28, 1980 in the Mt. Taylor/Dalton Pass area will be in protest of continued exploration, mining and milling of uranium in solidarity with the April 26th anti-nuclear demonstration to be held in Washington, D.C.

PROTECT TRADITIONAL SACRED LANDS!
PROTECT OUR MOTHER - THE EARTH!
DEFEND SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS OF NATIVE PEOPLES!
STOP URANIUM MINING/STOP NUCLEAR POWER/PROMOTE SAFE ENERGY!



URANIUM MINING

To draw attention to uranium mining issues in the U.S. and abroad, the Native American Environmental Council (1503 Central St. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104) has called for a non-violent action/demonstration on April 28, 1979 in Grants, New Mexico. Support actions around the country are strongly encouraged. Educational efforts and demonstrations on the front-end of the nuclear fuel cycle will help pave the way for further grassroots actions that will expose the insanity of the entire nuclear cycle. The American Indians recognize the military/industrial control of the nuclear industry both in the US and internationally. To clarify the connection between US uranium mining and reserves in other countries, a brief look at the 4 main suppliers of uranium and the dangers of uranium mining is necessary.

Nuclear power poses the greatest public health hazard the world has ever encountered because of the inevitable contamination of the biosphere with plutonium and radioactive wastes. Uranium is the fuel used in atomic reactors. Uranium mining and milling are lethal operations. As soon as the Uranium is removed from the rock, 5 major types of radiation escape--Radon 222, Polonium 218, Lead 214, Lead 210 and Bismuth 214. Radon gas in particular produces cancer and genetic damage. All cells of the body have a central nucleus which contains genes--the basic inherited material that controls our characteristics (eye and hair color, facial characteristics, enzyme systems etc.). Genes are changed by exposure to radioactive particles. Cells and genes which are actively divided (as in fetuses, babies and young children) are most susceptible to radiation. If a gene which controls the rate of cell division is altered by radiation, the cell may divide in an uncontrolled fashion to produce cancer and leukemia. It may take 5-20 years before cancer appears after the cell is exposed to radiation. If a gene in the sperm or egg is altered by a radioactive particle the young may be born either with an inherited disease or the baby may appear normal but will transmit the damaged gene to future generations to become manifest in later years.

Anyone engaged in the struggle against nuclear power will soon come to realize that they are opposing extremely powerful financial interests which have invested billions of dollars in a nuclear future and can easily afford a small proportion of this investment to expand internationally. It is necessary for them to try to mine as soon as possible since the nuclear industry is in a decline due to vast technological and economic problems, combined with a growing international people's campaign against uranium. It is crucial to understand and target the corporate and political interests that lie behind uranium mining. Most of the western bloc's uranium comes from four sources: Australia, South Africa with Namibia (Southwest Africa), Canada and the U.S. Smaller amounts are found in the former French colonies of Niger, the Central African Empire and Gabon, as well as in Mali, Chad, Ethiopia, Algeria, Zambia and Zaire. Several other countries are trying to rely on their own local supplies which are adequate for their programs (ie. Argentina, Libya, India (including thorium) and the Republic of South Africa. Still other countries are using their own domestic supplies supplemented by other imports from the major suppliers (ie. Brazil, Sweden, France and Mexico). A closer look at the four major uranium supply countries will help clarify the role of the multinational corporations in promoting uranium mining.

Australia

Australia has 20% of the world's known uranium reserves but has 70% of the 'uncommitted reserves'. It is the largest supplier of uranium on the world market. The Australian government has given the green light for large scale uranium mining. On November 3, 1978

the Australian government forced the Aborigines of the Northern Territory to accept an agreement on the mining of uranium at the Ranger mine. Under the Lands Rights Act of 1976 the Aborigines could negotiate only about the terms of the deal, not about the principle. The government dismissed their objections to the starting of mining and subjected them to heavy threats. The aboriginal communities had no chance to discuss the proposed terms because the draft Agreement was kept secret and never translated in local languages. There is tremendous pressure being exerted by the Australian government and mining companies on the Aborigines into allowing uranium mining in return for very limited financial compensation. The Northern Land Council and the Northern Territory Aborigines have consistently opposed uranium mining in Australia but the government has final control over minerals on their land. There are four companies principally involved: The Ranger Co.--jointly controlled by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, Peko-Wallsend, and EZ. Other corporate interests are the Pancontinental Co. (with Getty Oil), Noranda Co. (Canadian) and the Queensland Mines which is 50% controlled by Kathleen Investments. Western mining is also largely Australian owned.

Over the past two years Australian delegations have been negotiating with the United Kingdom, Federal Germany, Finland, the Phillipines, Japan, France, Brazil, the USA and the Anglo-German-Dutch URENCO enrichment Co. Australian Labor Party leader, Hayden recently visited the Phillipines and confirmed that any deal done to supply Australian yellow cake under a 30 year contract for the Phillipine's 620 MW Westinghouse reactor would not be honored by the Australian Labor Party. As in other third world countries, the power is destined for a large industrial complex which produces goods for export, using cheap, non-unionized industrial labor and producing profits for oversea investors and local elites. The power from the nuclear plant at Morong will go to the Bataan Export Zone, financed by investors in the U.S., Japan and Australia. It is hardly surprising that Australia is interested in supplying uranium to the Phillipines. Since the Australian Labor Party has made it clear that if it came back to power it would cancel any new export contracts for

uranium mining, doubts about Australia's long-run reliability as a supplier may send Marcos and Westinghouse to South Africa for their supplies. In Australia the trade unions are playing a lead role in the struggle; they will need the support of unions the world over if boycotts are to be successful (especially dock workers).

South Africa

The Rossing uranium mine in Namibia is one of the largest deposits of uranium in the world. The Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation is the world's largest uranium company and has controlling interest in the Rossing mine. RTZ's special feature is the way in which the directors of its 200 or so subsidiaries sit on the boards of other key financial interests in their home countries, besides the way in which RTZ directors themselves are drawn from the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia and South Africa, where they sit on the board of major RTZ interests. French interests are also involved in the Rossing mine and in further exploration for uranium in the Namib desert. Two of these corporations--Societe Petrole d'Aquitaine and Pechiney-Ugine-Kahlmann--have interlocking interests with RTZ and AMOK. Production of uranium from the Rossing mine has made it possible for South Africa to become a nuclear power and within a few years that country will preside over a complete nuclear fuel cycle, from uranium mining to nuclear weapons. Of the four major uranium producers in the non-Communist world, only South Africa has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and in recent years the government has been steadily developing military, scientific, trading and diplomatic links with Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Israel, Iran, Taiwan and South Korea, hardly any of whom have signed the NPT and all of which--except Chile-- have a nuclear capacity. Westinghouse is building reactors in several of these countries, including Israel, Iran and Egypt.

Canada

In Canada a quick look at interlocking directorates amongst the uranium corporations reveals a great deal. Many of the directors sit on the boards of Canada's top financial corporations--the major banks and insurance companies--besides other companies like Canadian General Electric and Westinghouse, and various other energy and mining interests. Foreign directors also interlock with similar interests in their own countries--the USA, France, West Germany and Britain. In the Canadian province of Saskatchewan uranium mining is to be allowed although there is strong opposition from the chiefs of the Indian tribes; Gulf Minerals (a subsidiary of US Gulf Oil) is planning to sink their drills into Canadian uranium mines. While Canada ranks fourth among western nations with the largest "reasonably assured" resources of uranium, it has the second largest deposits of "estimated additional resources". In September 1978, the industry reported perhaps the world's largest highgrade deposit--at MidWest Lake in northern Saskatchewan. A major inquiry into the effects of uranium mining in British Columbia will be starting in early 1979.

United States

Indian reservations today constitute about 3% of the U.S. In those lands lie over one-third of the US coal reserves and over one-half of the uranium resources of North America. Most of the Indian uranium is concentrated in the four corners area of the Southwest. Navajo, Laguna Pueblo, Spokane of Eastern Washington State, Ojibwas's and Sioux own most of the Indian uranium resources. The largest uranium producing area in the USA--the Grants Mineral Belt in New Mexico--is situated largely on Navajo reservation land. 47% of New Mexico's uranium is on Indian land, while 15.8% is on Chicano grant land. Profits from the mines go to many mining companies including: Kerr-McGee, United Nuclear & Homestake Partners, Gulf Oil (General Atomic Corp.), Exxon, Conoco (Continental Oil, Anaconda Co., Western Nuclear Inc., Harrison & Western and Allied Chemical Corporation.

It is clear that the Federal Government, in coordination with the uranium industry has planned a genocidal future for the Navajo people. Although non-Indian communities will be affected by reactor sites, the source of the uranium, the reprocessing and milling, and even many of the nuclear plants themselves are planned for the reservations. The alarming rate of Indian land leasing for uranium resources, in comparison to Public land leasing verifies government intentions. Facts on this are found in the Federal Trade Commissions, Bureau of Competitions' finalized report on Mineral Leasing on Indian Lands (October 1975). As may be expected, this close contact between the uranium corporations and the federal government operates to increase industry prosperity, while the native care takers of the ore starve. The circle is now complete: from the starting point of the greedy Bureau of Indian Affairs officials who lease out the lands, to the Department of the Interior who have "trust" control of Indian lands and energy resources, to the government-industry collaboration, to the concentration in the uranium corporations, then back to the poor Indian people who are already dying of cancer. Although the miners are dying, the entire industry-government consortium remains indifferent. In this way, their profits are guaranteed.

Unless Indian people can control their uranium resources, the government will continue, along with industry, to accelerate the development of the malignant monster, the nuclear industry. In addition to fighting our local nukes it is vital that we recognize the connection between uranium mining and milling and the rest of the fuel cycle. As well as realizing that we are or should be at one with the struggle of the Indians. Please support in any way possible the Grants New Mexico action on April 28, 1979.

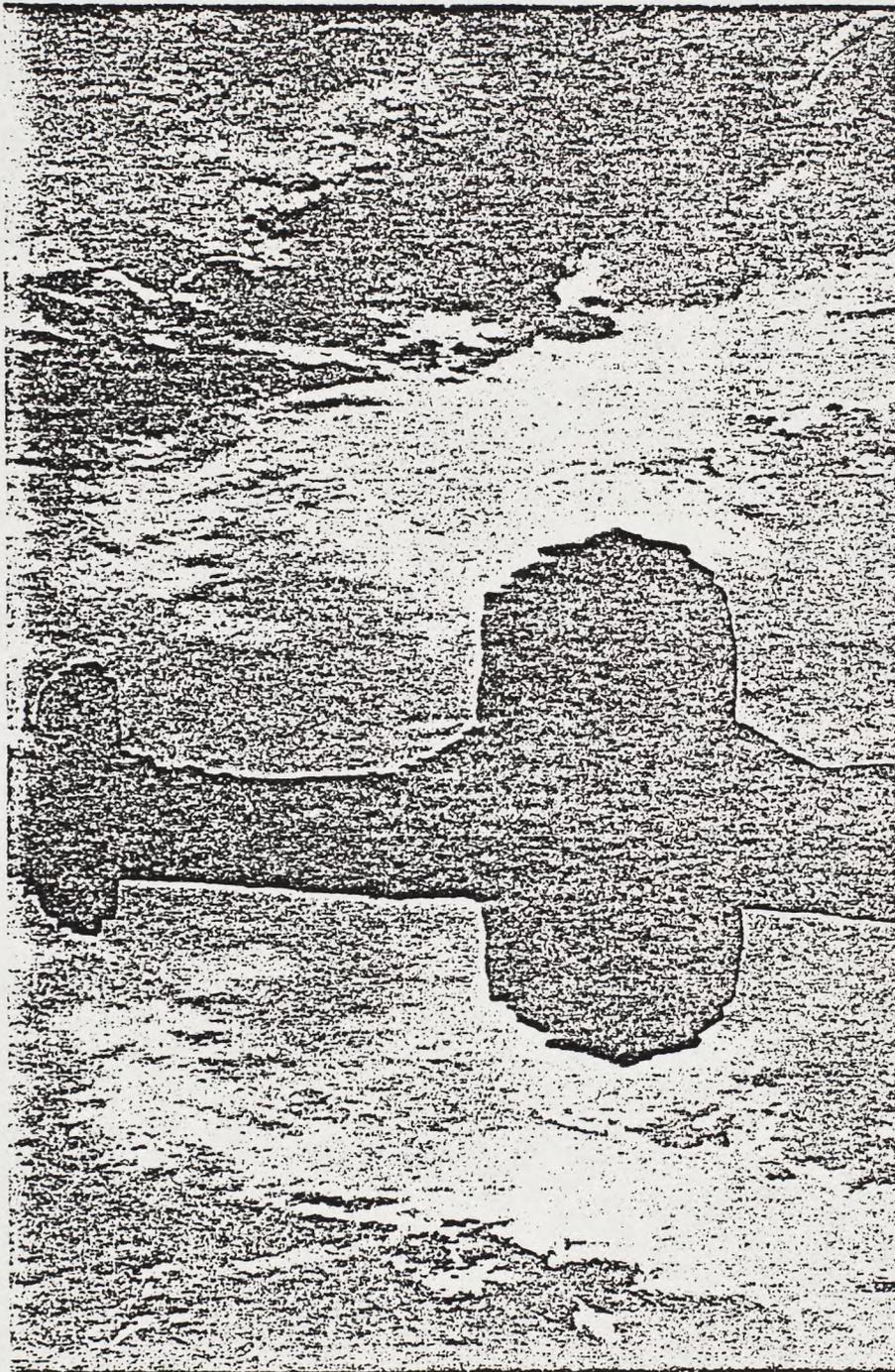
DISTRIBUTED BY
COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK
P.O. BOX 33686
SAN DIEGO, CA 92103
(714) 236-1684 or 459-4650

For more information contact: Ada Sanchez
Natural Guard Fund
520 Butternut St. NW, Wash., DC 20012
Phone: 202-882-5508

Plundering the powerless

Uranium mining threatens a land and its people.

Gail Robinson



The striking landscape of New Mexico could be ravaged by uranium mining.

A lot of the debate over nuclear power centers around probability figures. Is the chance of a major nuclear accident greater than the chance of a giant meteor crashing to the earth? How many operating years can we expect to go without a meltdown?

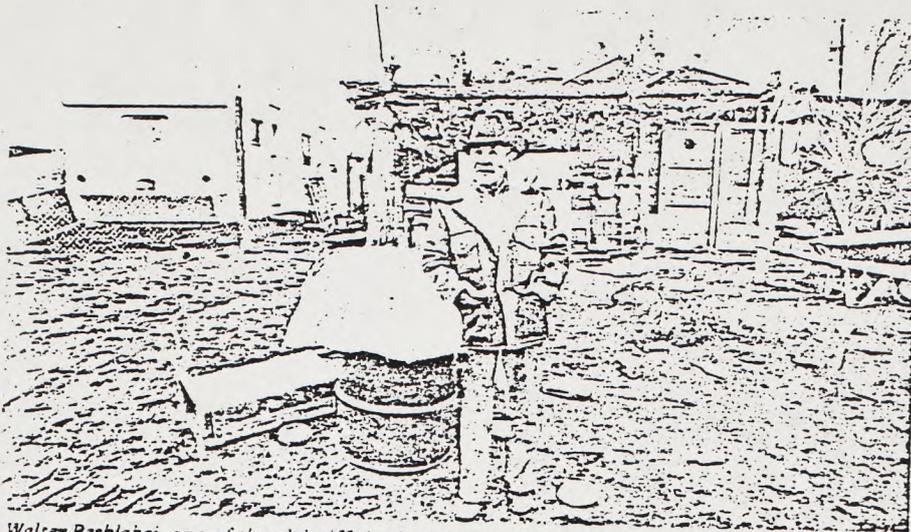
Even after the near disaster at Three Mile Island, government officials resorted to using probability figures as a way of assessing the damage. HEW Secretary Joseph Califano solemnly told a congressional committee that the accident could cause one to 10 additional cancer deaths in the Middletown, Penn. area.

But for residents of uranium mining areas, the effects of nuclear power are not abstract statistics. There are very real cancer deaths, mountains of radioactive mill tailings (the debris left when the uranium used in power plants is removed from the raw ore), holes drilled in the ground and livestock dying because of contaminated water.

Uranium mining always seems to be done in far flung places—the northern reaches of Saskatchewan, the Black Hills of South Dakota, the desolate mesas of New Mexico and parts of Wyoming. Much of the land on which uranium is found belongs to the relatively powerless—to Chicanos and Indians living isolated existences (see p. 5). In fact, according to the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, 75 to 80 percent of U.S. uranium reserves are on Indian land. These people are now seeing their land gutted for precious nuclear fuel, or “yellowcake.”

But the Native Americans are fighting back. Their battle against the federal government and a bevy of large corporations over uranium mining in the Southern Powder River Basin of Wyoming and the San Juan Uranium Region of New Mexico may prove to be the greatest challenge yet to uranium mining in the United States.

Uranium mining—largely because of the amount of radioactivity it generates—



Walter Peshlakai, one of the plaintiffs in the Navajo's uranium mining suit, lives on land that has been leased to United Nuclear Corp. for uranium exploration, mining and milling.

presents a host of environmental problems.

- Water has to be pumped out of surface and underground mines. This can lower the local water table and may contaminate the remaining groundwater.

- When wastewater from the mines is dumped, as it usually is, in dry stream beds, the mine pollutants are spread over a large area.

- Acres of land are disrupted, first for exploratory drilling and then for the mines and mills themselves, for the drilling rigs and for access roads to the areas.

- Dangerous radon gas is vented from the mines so miners won't have to breathe concentrated doses. But the gas then pollutes the air surrounding the mines. Radioactive dust, raised in the mining and milling process, also wafts into the air.

When the ore is finally extracted from either a deep or a surface mine, it must be refined into yellowcake. Left behind are literally millions of tons of tailings which, because of their very volume, are extremely difficult to dispose of. For a time these tailings were thought to be safe—they were used as a construction material in Grand Junction, Colo.—but now their radioactivity is considered hazardous.

To avoid some of these problems, uranium companies have begun using a technique known as *in situ* mining; holes are drilled into the uranium ore and a chemical that extracts the uranium is injected into the holes. The mining and milling are combined into one operation, avoiding the tailings problem but creating other difficulties. The chemical solution enters the groundwater supply and, even

after the mining is completed, the chemicals can continue to pollute the underground aquifer.

For the Navajos in New Mexico, though, the documented environmental problems—the presence of airborne radioactive particles, the contamination of the water supply—are not the only threats of uranium mining.



Another plaintiff in the Navajo's suit is Mary Largo, who was surprised one morning to find men drilling holes in front of her home.

Many of the Navajos on the affected land live on 160 acre allotments. They consider their land to be community property and use much of it for grazing. These Navajos still speak their own language and have managed to maintain much of their traditional culture. Now the influx of hundreds of Anglo outsiders threatens to destroy sacred land and, eventually strain Navajo culture to the breaking point.

Lisa Gmuca, a lawyer for DNA People's Legal Services, which represents the Indians, explains, "A lot of people have very strong religious attitudes toward the land and think this drilling and blasting is an indignity to the land that will have dire consequences for them and for everyone everywhere. . . . One Navajo said that by taking uranium out of the land, you are going to create an imbalance which will result in forces you can not control—a cataclysmic event."

Their very isolation has made the Indians an easy target for the uranium companies. Under the regulations governing Indian allotments, both the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the individual Indian have to approve any lease of the land. According to DNA attorney Joseph Gmuca, the BIA approval is usually a rubber stamp. The Navajos are confronted with a thick lease, written in legalese and dealing with concepts foreign to them and their culture. As Joseph Gmuca said, "A lot of people out there still don't know what uranium mining is," and there isn't even a Navajo word for "lease."

But once the mining begins—and it has on Navajo lands—its impact becomes only too clear. According to Peterson Zah, a Navajo who is director of DNA Legal Services, one 78 year old woman woke up one morning to find men drilling holes in the land between her house and her corral. And Joseph Gmuca tells the story of a woman who was supposed to inherit land from her father. By the time the will was probated, the land was being drilled even though she had never given the company permission to do so. A breeder of prize rodeo horses, she has seen seven of the \$1,000 animals die from drinking contaminated water.

In an effort to halt the uranium mining, 93 Native Americans have joined forces with Friends of the Earth and filed suit against six government agencies. The complaint alleged that the government violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by allowing such com-

panies as United Nuclear, Mobil, Phillips Petroleum and Continental Oil to drill for uranium on government land without preparing the proper environmental impact statements.

Norman Dean, a Washington attorney representing the Indians, charges, "Here you have just a smattering of site specific statements, you have no regional statement and no national program statement."

Dean says the lawyers decided to concentrate on the NEPA aspects of the issue because "we had to narrow the range of issues to deal with."

Since the action was filed, energy companies involved in the area have sought to enter the case on behalf of the government. And the Justice Department, which is representing the Interior, Energy and Agriculture Departments, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has filed an answer to the charges. In it, the government admits that some of the environmental damages mentioned in the suit may occur. For example, the government acknowledges that mining can lower the water level and that land is disturbed by the mining. But basically the government maintains that these impacts are not as severe as the Indians' complaints would have you believe.

The government also concedes that some environmental impact statements



Sarah McCray breeds prize rodeo horses, seven of which have died from drinking water contaminated with uranium.

were not prepared. For instance, the Justice Department maintains that regional environmental impact statements are not necessary because, it says, there is no regional plan for uranium development.

Regardless of who is right on narrow legal grounds, the complaint brings up the question of what, exactly, the Navajos hope to gain from the suit.

Many environmentalists, opposed to nuclear power in general, would like to

see uranium mining stopped altogether, and some Navajos, of course, are against any disruption of their land. But many others would welcome the uranium mining and its financial rewards. According to Joseph Gmuca, some of the Indians who now live at subsistence level on small plots of land could become millionaires.

"All our suit is asking for is environmental impact statements," Lisa Gmuca explains. "Since some of our clients would want to develop land for energy resources, if there was a safe way of doing it, that's all we can ask for."

Dean notes that the motivations of the clients in the case vary, but that all are hoping to lessen the environmental damage from uranium mining and milling. "Through the process of assessing the impacts," he says, "certain steps can be taken to lessen them."

Although some of the Navajos undoubtedly want the money, for others, the idea of becoming a millionaire is difficult to grasp. Traditionally their culture has been based on grazing and on barter and the only material possession many own is a pickup truck.

Energy from the Navajo lands is exported. It fuels cities like Los Angeles and provides the neon glitter of Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Peterson Zah's parents live under a string of powerlines. But all those wires do for them is block the sky. They still have to chop their own wood. ■

The yellowcake connection

Or how nuclear power ties suburban Long Island to a tiny town 2000 miles away.

Dede Feldman

Across the valley, about two miles from where she is standing at the Casita de Marquez Mexican Take Out Stand, Cecilia Martinez points out two large barren peaks.

"Can you see those caves over there in the side of that mesa?" she asks. "Here in the village we've used them for prayer and religious purposes for hundreds of years. Juan Tafoya, who founded this land grant, lived in one of them

Dede Feldman built her own passive solar home in Albuquerque, N.M.

and fought off the Apaches. We used to keep our saints there. Now we've moved our Santos up to our schoolhouse—we're afraid the caves will be damaged by all the blasting."

As Cecilia Martinez talks, the sounds of earth moving machinery, trucks and cranes punctuate her remarks.

The blasting and the excavating is all being done by Bokum Resources Inc., which is building a \$35 million uranium mining and milling operation in the rugged landscape around Marquez, 37 miles northwest of Albuquerque. While the village is a world away from the stalled expressways, busy shopping centers and densely populated subdivisions of

Long Island, the New York suburb's thirst for energy has brought the two areas together in a strange relationship—a relationship built around nuclear power.

Marquez is the site of an estimated 10 million pounds of uranium, slated for use in two nuclear power plants now being built by the Long Island Lighting Co. (LILCO). Bokum, a New Mexico company, has agreed to sell LILCO the uranium to power those plants. And in return for loaning Bokum \$50 million, LILCO will receive not only 10.5 percent interest a year but a substantial discount on the precious yellowcake.

LILCO's deal with Bokum, made in 1976, exemplifies the new, more direct relationship between utilities and their sources of uranium. Already other Eastern utilities, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, are heavily involved in uranium mining ventures, a trend that began two years ago when Westinghouse Electric Corp. backed out of a deal to sell uranium to utilities at \$40 a pound. Now, many utilities are willing to gamble on a loan to uranium companies—with the coveted uranium as collateral. In the Bokum case, LILCO will hold the mortgage on the Marquez mine and mill until the loan is repaid in 1986.

But all is not running smoothly for Bokum and LILCO. In New Mexico, where some 50 percent of the nation's uranium lies, the Bokum transaction has become the focus of a controversy which reaches from the old school house in Marquez all the way up to the state Environmental Improve-

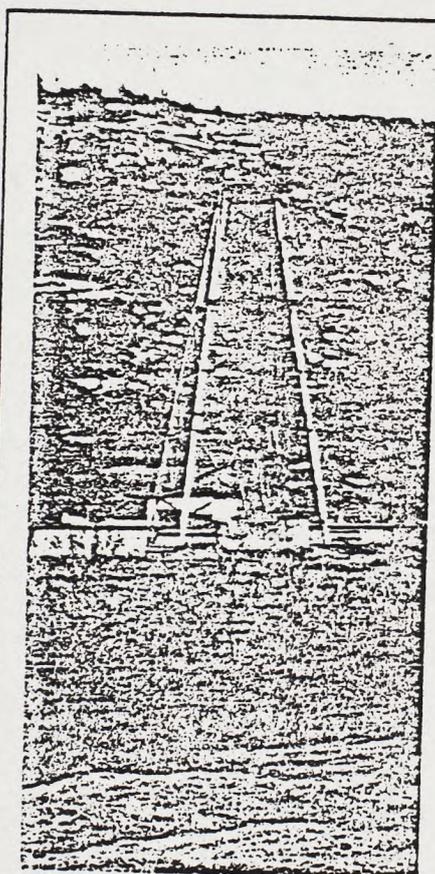
ment Division. And if the state can't control the uranium development—and it has not in the past—the people of Marquez and other Chicano and Indian towns in New Mexico may be paying for Eastern nuclear power with their land, their health and their heritage.

Already, there are signs of Bokum's development in Marquez. West of the town, dwarfing the wood cottages and adobe houses, is a tall drilling rig. Now in the early stages of its mining operation, Bokum is pumping thousands of acre-feet of water out of the mine and dumping it in Juan Tafoya Creek, the lifeblood of the small town. Local residents are afraid their water is being contaminated.

"We used to drink right out of the stream that runs here in town, but now even our cows and horses won't drink out of it, it's so contaminated," says Cecilia Martinez, part owner of the Casita de Marquez. But company officials contend the water is not radioactive and, in any event, they say, the situation is only temporary. Eventually the water from the mine will be pumped to the mill.

The land that Bokum is mining is land grant land; it was deeded to early Spanish settlers and their heirs by the king of Spain in the 1600s. And although the grants were recognized by the United States when it seized the area in 1848, the deeds have been a continuing source of controversy.

For years the village of Marquez, built on an almost 200,000 acre land grant, was small and self sufficient. Small



The signs of uranium mining, such as this drilling rig, are already visible in Marquez.

The Santa Fe link

While Bokum Resources is unknown to the Easterners who will get power from its uranium, the company is infamous in New Mexico. Unlike many of the large multinational corporations stripping and drilling for New Mexico uranium, Bokum is a New Mexico company with roots in local politics and friends in high places.

Formed in 1972, Bokum Resources is the latest of several uranium companies headed by local uranium explorer and entrepreneur Richard Bokum, a man state residents believe has a "yellow thumb." As president of the Bokum Corporation, Bokum Resources' predecessor, and earlier as president of United Nuclear, Richard Bokum has drilled holes, bulldozed roads and staked claims on federal and private land in the Grants uranium belt for the last 20 years.

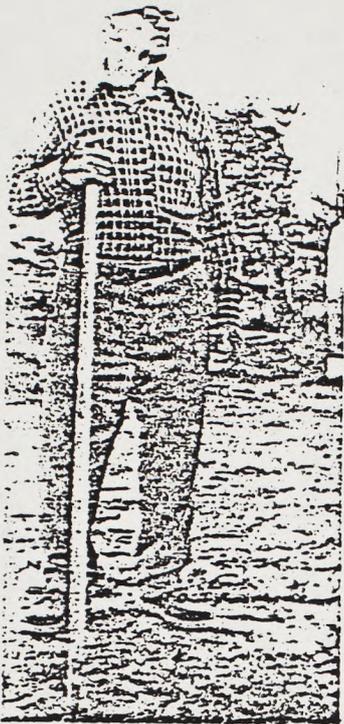
The history of Bokum Resources' attempts to mine uranium in the Marquez corner of this belt, which also includes a mountain held sacred by Navajos, Acomas and Lagunas, has featured confrontations with local

environmentalists and with the state Environmental Improvement Division. But despite the opposition, Bokum thinks it will get to build its Marquez mine.

Although the company has no permanent license for the mine, Bokum vice president William Biava told a Santa Fe newspaper in December, "We've encountered this kind of decision before a few times and we have not been held up."

The company has reason to be confident. Bokum has lots of strings it can pull.

For example, a recent stock fraud case involving Bokum Resources revealed that several members of the state legislature and the head of the New Mexico Public Service Commission had received "gifts" of stock from Richard Bokum. Among the legislators were three who sponsored an unsuccessful bill to appropriate \$2 million in state funds to pave a road to the Marquez mine. The FBI is now investigating Bokum's generosity—a generosity which Bokum has said ex-



Gilberto Marquez recalls the way his village used to be: "When this was a free country there were no fences and everybody had a good living."

scale cattle ranching and sheep herding were the residents' primary occupations, and large tracts of land were owned, irrigated and farmed communally. One of the heirs to the original grant, Dora Lovato, says the village "used to be such a warm, happy place. Everyone helped each other, and religion was very strong. There was a group of Penetentes [Spanish brothers] who lived at the edge of town, and there were processions. Once a year, the whole community got together to clean out the ditches we used to irrigate our fields."

But the land grants—and the way of life on them—have been repeatedly threatened by outsiders—cattle ranchers, tax collectors, lawyers and, most recently, uranium companies like Gulf, Sohio and Bokum Resources. As outsiders whittled away at the grant, the lure of city jobs and excitement beckoned hundreds of land grant heirs who left the village. But the memory of life in the village and the dream of returning lived on.

Gilberto Marquez, whose family came to the village generations ago, recalls, "When this was a free country, there were no fences and everybody had a good living. Then the Texans and the cattle companies took our land."

Another of Marquez's old men, Mariano Lucero, agrees. "It used to be all open," he says. "But the people were chased off by outsiders who put up fences and stole land out from people. Now all we have is 3,840 acres. We live in just a corral."

But that corral houses more than horses. Marquez is now

tends to "friends who have helped us in the past and might help us in the future."

The complete list of Bokum Resources stockholders reads like a who's who in New Mexico politics, with heavy representation from the family of the late U.S. Sen. Joseph Montoya of New Mexico. And, coincidentally, Bokum vice president Biava's partner in a \$43,500 rackerball venture is former Gov. Jerry Apodaca, who allegedly put intense pressure on the state Environmental Improvement Division to issue a "conditional" license for Bokum's mill.

Bokum Resources has a history of trying to defy state and federal authority. In 1975, it refused to submit information for an environmental analysis of its plans to bulldoze a road into the roadless Water Canyon area of Cibola National Forest.

Under pressure from Bokum, the U.S. Forest Service said no environmental report was needed. On Aug. 25, 1975, enraged local environmentalists blocked the entrance to the

canyon, saying Bokum's plans for mining the area would destroy any hopes of wilderness protection. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups took the issue to the courts, but lost in their efforts to preserve the wilderness.

Other Bokum Resources controversies have been internal. In January 1979, the company lost a stock fraud case that had been pending in state courts for several months. The court ordered the company to pay \$2.5 mil-

lion in damages to minority stockholders who charged that they had been cheated by Bokum on a stock tender offer in 1975.

The plaintiffs, two prominent Albuquerque businessmen, claimed Richard Bokum did not reveal the company's forthcoming deal with Long Island Lighting Co., its new uranium discoveries and a forthcoming 99 to 1 stock split when he tried to buy their shares in the company for \$7.20 apiece. —D.F.



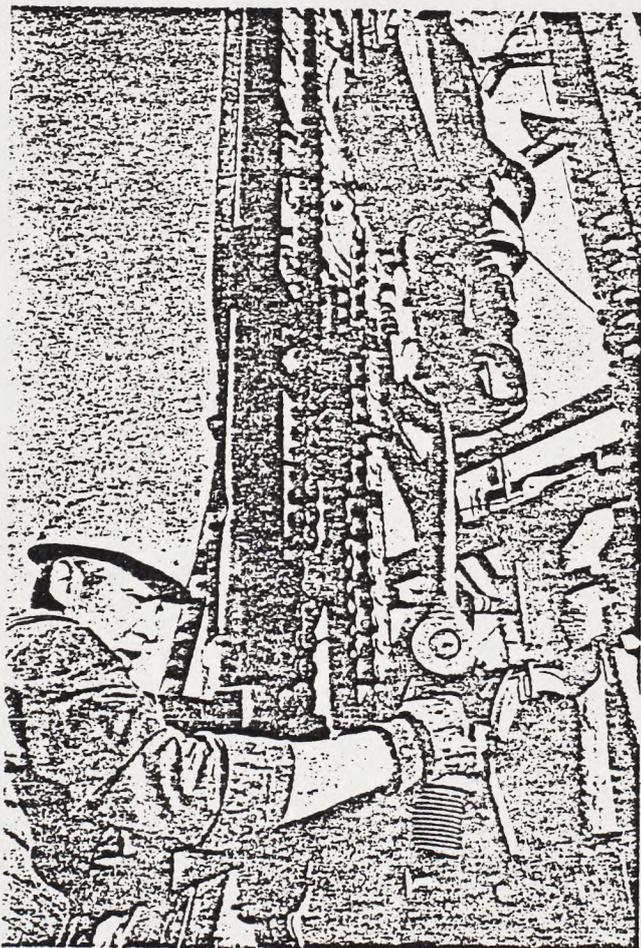
Bokum Resources is planning to fill this riverbed, or arroyo, with radioactive mill tailings.

home to trailers, heavy equipment, settling ponds and drilling rigs; eventually there will be a concrete mill on the mesa overlooking the town. And two large mine vents will soon be spewing toxic radon gas into the air.

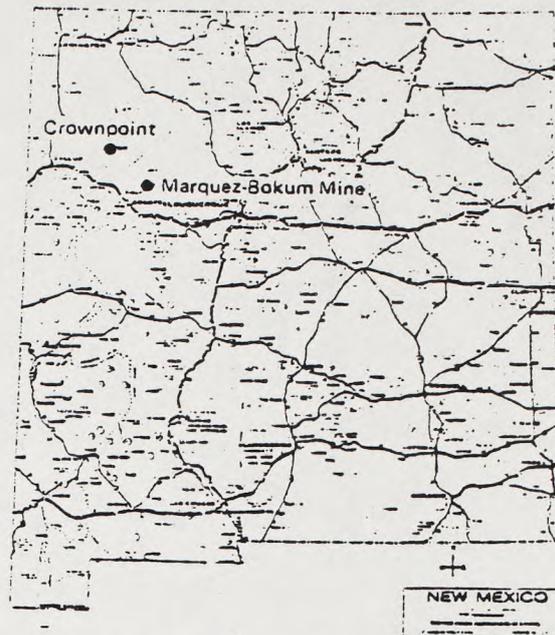
From the state government's point of view, however, the main problem with Bokum's plans is the disposal of an estimated 20 million tons of uranium mill tailings, which will remain near Marquez after the uranium is shipped to Long Island. Tailings are the dust like debris left over after the uranium—or yellowcake—has been leached out of the raw ore. They can contain as much as 85 percent of the uranium's original radioactivity.

In the past year, as evidence has mounted that the radioactive elements—particularly radon gas—left in the tailings piles cause cancer, uranium tailings have become a hot issue in New Mexico. State health officials are worried about the 60-million-ton of uncovered mill tailings which had been left at 10 New Mexico sites by 1977, and they are anxious about who will clean up the additional 547 million tons of tailings to be generated in the state by the year 2000.

Originally, Bokum had hoped to pile the tailings from the Marquez mine behind a dam straddling a usually dry riverbed—known as "an arroyo" in New Mexico. After the state Environmental Protection Division rejected Bokum's proposal to build the dam itself out of tailings, the company



John Lewis, a Navajo, works at a rig used to drill holes for uranium exploration.



agreed to construct an elaborate diversion dam. Without such a barrier, the tailings would erode and drift downward toward Albuquerque.

But problems still remained. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pointed out that the dam would have to be maintained as long as the tailings contained some radioactivity—in other words, for as long as 800,000 years. So last fall, the NRC, acting as a consultant to the state, notified Bokum and the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division that the project could not be licensed.

Undaunted, Bokum put its political muscle to work (see box). Meanwhile, the company scammed through a loophole in state law that allows construction to begin on a mining and milling operation before the license is issued.

Apparently alarmed at any crimp being placed in Bokum's plans, outgoing Gov. Jerry Apodaca ranted at several environmental officials, accusing them of needlessly delaying Bokum's license application. One agency employee reported that the governor politely warned them not to issue an environmental report that would put Bokum in a bad light. In addition, U.S. Sen. Peter Domenici of New Mexico reportedly called the NRC in Washington to argue Bokum's case.

One or all of these maneuvers did the trick. On Oct. 1, New Mexico issued a "conditional" license to Bokum—the first such license ever granted in the state.

Not surprisingly, there were protests. Pat Donohue, the only Environmental Improvement scientist empowered to issue a license, resigned in protest, infuriated that a facility was going to be built which, he felt, was hazardous to the health of people living in the Marquez area. And Al Topp of the division's Radiation Protection Department complained, "I'm bothered by the truculence of the applicant. They just keep on building in spite of repeated warnings."

Topp thinks the project is virtually unlicensable. There are, he maintains, "lots of real problems out there. We still don't have a real tailings diversion plan, and the groundwater issue [contamination of water beneath the earth's surface] is all but insurmountable."

At press time, the groundwater issue was being debated



The remnants of an old way of life are still visible in the Southwest, but some area residents believe their traditions are threatened by uranium mining. Pictured above is an old chapel in Marquez; below is a reminder of the way Grants, a uranium mining center, used to look.



at a lengthy hearing in Santa Fe. A number of groups, including the Sierra Club, New Mexicans for Clean Air and Water, the Sandoval Environmental Action Community and a small group of Navajos whose grazing land is downriver from Bokum's tailings disposal pit are fighting the company. Outraged by Bokum's political pull, these groups have vowed to fight the company every step of the way.

Bokum, on the other hand, sees itself as a catalyst for progress which is being stopped by people who simply are not in sync with the modern world. Sitting in his Santa Fe office, Bokum vice president William Biava complains, "We have some people over there who don't want progress at all. They want to go back to the dark ages. They couldn't care less if the uranium industry went down the tube. They delay you and delay you to the point where they'd destroy you if you have a time pressure."

And the mine superintendent, Arthur Watkins, doesn't understand why the people of Marquez can't see the situation Bokum's way. "The people here really don't have much to complain about," he says. "Bokum's bringing a lot of work to the area, plus residents get a royalty on all the uranium produced."

Today, as construction on the mine proceeds, some 380 men are employed at the site. These workers provide business for Cecilia Martinez's food stand. And some of the people who left town as the land was whittled away have returned in the hopes of finding a job in the mines or the mill.

But the promise held out by Watkins may be empty. According to information supplied by Bokum to the Environmental Improvement Division, while the mill, when finished, will provide about 45 permanent jobs and the mine 110, many of these may not go to area residents. Even if they do, the Marquez residents may find the jobs aren't worth it since uranium miners are subjected to a constant barrage of low level radiation.

There is, as Watkins says, a provision for a royalty to be paid to the Juan Tafoya Land Grant Corporation, the modern day equivalent of the old land grant. But it's only 8 percent—the lowest such payment in the area, lower even than the rockbottom royalties negotiated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for neighboring Indian tribes. And, according to Dora Lovato, one of the land grant heirs, time and internal disputes have divided the heirs, so many people who live in Marquez won't get any royalty money.

In the wake of the Bokum deal, the old land grant community split. One faction in Marquez has leased its land to Bokum, but other village residents are more loathe to part with the past—or with the uranium. And they have good reason to distrust Bokum, which has estimated the Marquez property to be worth \$48 million.

After the 20 year lease is up, land grant heirs will be left with the \$300,000 rent they received for the land and with as many as 20 million tons of radioactive uranium mill tailings. Their land and water may well be poisoned and the excavations and roads needed for the mining and milling could leave the landscape permanently scarred.

"They tell us there will be lots of money here," Lovato says, "but for who? Those of us who have been born and raised here have been left out."

The saints aren't the only ones whose existence is endangered.

Feb. 79 Progressive Magazine

Bury my lungs at Red Rock

Uranium mining brings a new peril to the reservation

Tom Barry

Betty Yazzie, a forty-eight-year-old Navajo Indian, keeps two Social Security cards in her wallet. The cards belonged to her first and second husbands, Kee Yazzie and Robert Yazzie. Both men worked as uranium miners. Both died of lung cancer.

"It's been real hard without a husband," says Betty Yazzie in Navajo. "Hard for me to manage alone, to pay the bills, to haul the water, to chop the wood." She receives a small monthly Social Security check, but it is not enough to pay the bills and feed her children.

For five years, Betty Yazzie has been trying, in the courts and through appeals to politicians, to get workmen's compensation for her husbands' occupational deaths. She believes the companies that employed her two husbands in their death-dealing jobs should be responsible for helping her.

But Betty Yazzie, the twenty-five other Navajo widows of uranium miners, and the many retired miners now dying of cancer in the hills of Red Rock, Arizona, have been ignored by the state and Federal governments as well as by the uranium companies.

The miners who have died and are dying of cancer in the northern tip of the vast Navajo Nation, largest reservation in the United States, are victims of uranium mining — the first step in the nuclear fuel cycle.

Potential ecological catastrophe from nuclear reactors threatens the future of many Americans, and in the last few years an anti-nuclear movement has

risen to block that threat. But sickness, death, and destruction caused at the front end of nuclear energy development is already a reality, and the In-



Tom Barry is a reporter for the Navajo Times in Window Rock, Arizona. Research for this article was supported by a grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

dians of the Southwest are among the first to face it.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), trustee for the Navajos, has leased their land for uranium mining without regard for adverse environmental effects, royalty rates, or social and economic impact. Uranium mines and mills are pushing Navajos off their land. Strangers are invading their towns. The radioactive air and water pollution are threatening their livestock and the health of their entire communities.

Huge piles of radioactive uranium tailings — a total of ten million tons in

Indians in this uranium-rich region are beginning to object to the practices of the energy companies and the Federal agencies which so carelessly opened up the reservations to uranium development.

Lucy Lorenzo is a Laguna Indian whose Pueblo community has been all but swallowed by the sprawling Jackpile uranium mine owned by Anaconda. She says the blastings and the radioactive dust from the open pit mine have cast a shadow over her village.

"The companies bring outsiders — non-Indians — into the mines as

close to three-quarters of a million acres of Indian land are teased for uranium exploration and development.

Fourteen energy companies have holdings on Indian land in northwestern New Mexico: Continental Oil, Anaconda, Grace, Gulf Minerals, Homestake, Humble Oil, Hydro Nuclear, Kerr McGee, Mobil Oil, Pioneer Nuclear, Western Nuclear, Phillips Petroleum, Marathon Oil, and the world's largest corporation, Exxon. Exxon also has a 400,000-acre exploration lease in the area surrounding Red Rock.

On the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico, Anaconda established the Jackpile Mine in the early 1950s. In the amount of ore produced, the quantity of reserves, and the magnitude of operations, it is the largest open-pit uranium mine in the United States. In Laguna, as in the Red Rock area, Lucy Lorenzo and other residents are complaining about the dangers of uranium development and the lack of responsibility on the part of Federal agencies and the energy companies.

'It stays in the lungs ... sort of like walking around with an atom bomb in your lungs'

four separate sites on the Navajo Nation — lie unattended less than a stone's throw from Navajo homes. In fact, many communities — never warned of the dangers of the wastes — have constructed their hogans (homes) and their schools from the gray, cement-like, radioactive material.

Oscar Sloan, a former miner living in an isolated community near Monument Valley, Arizona, says that "all the people here have used the uranium wastes to build our houses. The company never told us they were dangerous." Sloan recalls, "Some white men came here a couple of years ago, and said we shouldn't live in our houses. They said the Government would get us new houses because our homes are radioactive, but they never did. I don't want to live in this house any more, but I have no place else to stay, no place else to go."

Former miner Tony Yazzie and his family live in a house in Monument Valley built from the fine grain wastes that piled up in a gray mountain less than seventy-five yards from his house. "I heard the tailings are dangerous," says Yazzie. "It blows all over my land. We try to keep the dust and sand out of our house."

bosses even though our men have worked in the mines longer," Lorenzo says. "More and more non-Indians are around the Pueblo, and now I think the uranium companies and the outsiders are ruling this place."

Paul Frye, a legal services attorney in Crownpoint, the heart of the Grants Uranium Belt in New Mexico, is representing Navajos who feel the BIA did not adequately inform them before leasing the land and approving mining operations.

"There's a whole lot of people out here that are bothered about what's going on and they want help with their complaints," Frye says. "All the BIA has been doing is brokering for the big companies."

Northwestern New Mexico is the largest uranium producing region in the world, supplying about half of the country's mined and milled uranium. About 47 per cent of that uranium comes from Indian land. As exploration continues on the Navajo Nation and the Rio Grande Pueblos, that percentage will rise.

In a 1976 report, the Department of Interior called this region "the hottest uranium exploration area in the United States." In northwestern New Mexico,

Further north, in the Navajo Nation near the Four Corners area, Betty Yazzie and other Indians are demanding compensation for problems stemming from early uranium development. They see a new wave of uranium mining and milling overtaking them in the huge Exxon lease while they are still suffering from the energy boom of the late 1940s.

Red Rock was one of the first spots where the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the post-war uranium companies began prospecting for the radioactive fuel. Like many of the other problems stemming from industrial and mineral development on the reservation, the misfortune of the Red Rock people had its origins in the community's poverty and lack of education. The Government and the energy companies were willing to take advantage of that underdevelopment.

In New Mexico, the nuclear story began with the 1945 Trinity Site Test, which confirmed the success of the atom bomb. Three years later, the newly formed AEC began authorizing purchases of uranium to stockpile for its nuclear weapons arsenal and provid-

ing incentives to mining companies to find high-grade uranium deposits. It was during this period that Kerr McGee opened several shallow mines near Red Rock and set up a mill to process the uranium ore in nearby Shiprock, New Mexico.

When the mines' uranium supply was exhausted in 1968, they were abandoned, leaving contaminated build-up and more than seventy acres of uranium wastes. Also left behind were several hundred Navajo miners who had been exposed to deadly doses of radioactive gas and particulates.

Then, as now, the reservation offered a profitable opportunity for companies like Kerr McGee. On the reservation, there were no taxes, little regulation, and cheap labor. "The company came around and said there were mining jobs opening up, but they didn't tell us a thing about the dangers of uranium mining," former miner Terry Light recalls. "The labor came cheap back then. The white men really took advantage of the Navajos who needed jobs."

John H. Lee, who lives with his wife in a one-room unplastered home near the Red Rock area, worked as a miner for more than twenty years. He complains of spitting up blood and stabs of pains through his lungs — the signs of developing lung cancer. "I now feel sick all during the day so I just sit back in the chair and rest," Lee says, noting that he has seen most of his co-workers die. He has no doubt that his illness comes from his mining work.

"It made us sick to go into those mines," Lee remembers. "The white men sat outside the mines and pushed us Navajos into those dusty mines right after dynamiting."

"They chased us in there like we were slaves," recalls another miner. "I remember that it used to be so dusty that we were always spitting up black stuff and how when we went home we all had headaches from breathing all that contamination."

The major killer in uranium mines is the radioactive radon gas that escapes from the uranium ore. The dangers of radon have been known for at least fifty years, but the AEC refused to admit that danger was present in uranium mining for the first

twenty years of nuclear energy development.

"Those mines had 100 times the levels of radioactivity allowed today," says LaVerne Husen, director of the Public Health Service in Shiprock. "They weren't really mines, just holes and tunnels dug outside into the cliffs. Inside the mines were like radiation chambers, giving off unmeasured and unregulated amounts of radon. The problem was that back in the 1950s nobody was riding herd on the companies. It was a get-rich scheme that took advantage of Navajo miners who didn't know what radioactivity was or anything about its hazards."

Husen says the two main problems caused by uranium mining were lung cancer and pulmonary fibrosis, where silica dust particles become embedded in lung tissue, eventually making it difficult to breathe.

"The lung cancer comes from breathing radon gas," Husen adds. "It stays in the lungs and continues emitting radiation — sort of like walking around with an atom bomb in your lungs."

Lung cancer was formerly a rare disease among Navajos. In a seven-year study completed in 1972, no cases of lung cancer were found in a review of 50,000 chest x-rays of Navajos. But the rates of lung cancer among Navajos have soared because of exposure to radiation. Dr. Gerald Buker reported in a monograph entitled "Uranium Mining and Lung Cancer Among Navajo Indians" that the risk of lung cancer increases by a factor of at least eighty-five among Navajo uranium miners.

"It's pretty hard here," comments Ray Joe, a former uranium miner in the Red Rock area. "It's like we have been having a war or something like that here — with so many of our men dead and dying or sick. And we don't get a thing from the companies."

"My husband has been disabled for six years," says Elsie Benally, "and we have never got compensation. We wonder what happened to the reports we made to Washington about our problem. We need funds to support our eight children."

Red Rock residents have been trying since 1971 to obtain compensation for the tragic aftereffects of uranium min-



Deborah Bright

ing. Harry Tome, Red Rock's representative to the Navajo Tribal Council, says he has become frustrated because of the lack of support his constituents received from the tribal council, state politicians, and state compensation boards.

New Mexico's Senator Pete Domenici introduced a Uranium Miners' Compensation Act last year, similar to the legislation providing benefits for coal miners afflicted by black-lung disease, but Tome doubts the measure will be passed. "The politicians listen to us," he says, "promise us things, but really never do anything."

Dr. Joseph Wagoner, director of epidemiological research at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), observes, "The deaths of these uranium miners present serious medical and ethical questions about the responsibility — and the lack of response to that responsibility — of the Federal Government, which was the sole purchaser of uranium during the early uranium period." Wagoner, in studying the occupational hazards of uranium mining since the early 1960s, found that "far too many Navajos have needlessly died" of lung cancer.

When Congress created the AEC in 1946, the Commission's authority included the licensing of "source materials" containing uranium. The language of the AEC enabling act, however, stated that the AEC's power

was limited to "source material after removal from its place of deposit in nature."

The AEC interpreted this to mean it would exert no control over the mining of uranium. Though the AEC was the sole purchaser of uranium in the United States from 1946 through the mid-1960s, the Commission willingly relinquished its authority to regulate uranium mining. It wasn't until 1972 that Federal radiation standards were enforced in the uranium mines.

The AEC's contention that it lacked information about the health problems of uranium miners has been challenged

"The cart came before the horse on the uranium projects," says Howard Zeutzus, BIA environmental officer for the Navajo area. "We didn't know all that was coming. The projects we approved were individually insignificant, but collectively significant."

Harold Tso, director of the Navajo Environmental Protection Commission, comments that "the BIA had an idea it was coming, but they didn't know how big the elephant was. They looked at the foot and said it was not much of a creature. Then suddenly they saw the animal for as large as it really is, and started to realize there

you can go around and see the walls and windows broken by the blasts. Anaconda has promised to do something, but never does."

Speaking slowly, angrily, the old governor continues, "We have lived here for many years, and a lot has changed. I used to be able to breathe here, but I now can breathe better when I'm somewhere else. My son works in the mines and he doesn't look so good. And there is no doctor to check up on the miners. They're sure to give them a physical checkup before they hire the men, but they don't have any doctors to take care of them after they're working."

Frank Aragon, an Anaconda employe, also objects to the blasting, adding that "sometimes you can even smell the nitrates they use for the explosions. We don't know what it's doing to our health, especially to our kids and later on their babies."

The Department of Energy has estimated that it will cost \$20 million to clean up the ten million tons of radioactive mess left on the Navajo reservation by Kerr McGee and other companies. So far the funds have not been forthcoming.

Because of their proximity to Navajo communities, the radioactive tailing piles are a serious threat to the health of the Navajos. For the last ten years, wind and water erosion have spread the radioactivity far outside the original perimeter of the uranium mills.

A Department of Energy study reported that the Navajo and eighteen other abandoned uranium tailing piles in the western states are contributing to increased lung cancer among nearby residents through gamma radiation, ingestion of radioactive particles, and inhalation of radon gas that rises from the piles.

While the Government moved quickly a few years ago to clean up the scandal of off-reservation radioactive housing in Grand Junction, Colorado, no such help has come for the Navajos. Even the anti-nuclear movement has been slow in challenging the dangers of radioactivity to the people living and working under the uranium boom.

Like countless other tragedies in the history of Native Americans, this one remains lost in the dust of the vast, dry stretches of the reservations.

'I used to be able to breathe here, but now I can breathe better when I'm somewhere else'

by physicians in the Public Health Service. "Ignorance is no excuse," says Dr. Victor Archer, who has been concerned with deaths of uranium miners since 1954, "because of the several reports from European uranium mines in which a high percentage of workers developed lung cancer prior to 1940."

In the new uranium boom, fueled not by the military but by the private nuclear power industry, the BIA and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have routinely approved uranium leases and mining plans without preparing environmental impact statements or soliciting the opinions of area Navajos about the proposed development. The BIA in New Mexico has gone so far as to put land up for lease and approve mining plans without notifying the Navajo landowners.

Although its first responsibility is to protect Indian interests, the BIA has cited "the national energy shortage" as its prime consideration in approving mining plans and leases. Investigation into the BIA mineral leasing program has revealed that the BIA has frequently circumvented its own regulations. It has also failed to monitor the uranium leases or enforce their provisions for environmental safety and Indian employment preference.

was a problem." A San Juan Basin Regional Uranium Study was begun by the BIA last year — about ten years too late — to examine the impact of uranium development on Indian land in northwestern New Mexico. Much of this land has already been committed by mining leases.

Fifteen uranium companies have expressed interest in mining uranium in the Crownpoint area. Some, like Phillips Petroleum, have already begun to haul the ore out of the underground shafts, and most plan to begin operations by 1980. According to environmental impact studies done on this new "hot" uranium boom, the population of Crownpoint will soar to 15,000 in five to ten years — a 500 per cent increase. And according to the Geological Survey, the new uranium mines will seriously deplete the area's water supply.

Ben Lorenzo, a former governor of the Laguna Pueblo, sitting in his kitchen immediately after one of the routine explosions at the enormous Jackpile Mine, says, "I have many complaints about Anaconda and their mine here. When they blast, sometimes two or three times a day, the dust goes all over the village. And

Native Nations and the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

April 10, 1980 12:30 pm
SDSU FREE SPEECH AREA

Speakers Include

David Gould -Energy Development and the BIA

Henry Rodriguez -Southern California
Reservation Planning Organization

Roy Cook -The Protection of Mother Earth

SLIDE SHOW FOLLOWING SPEAKERS



2  0

236-1684

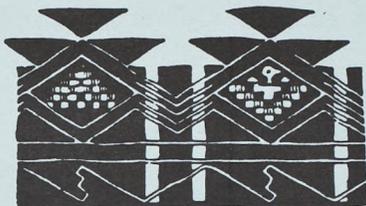
© P. ROMERO

May 2 off Centro 7:00

The Issue

Current uranium mining and milling activity occurs predominantly in northwestern New Mexico, commonly known as the San Juan Basin or Four Corners area of the U.S. In April of 1979 there were 38 active mines and 5 mills on the homelands of Navajo, Pueblo, and Chicano peoples. The effects on the lands and the lifestyles of the people are devastating. An increasing accumulation of radiation in the area is endangering the lives of the people and their livestock. CEAN feels that this aspect of the nuclear fuel chain must be brought to public attention. Please attend.

JOIN US at Mt. Taylor, New Mexico, April 26-28, 1980 for the protest gathering at this sacred Navajo site. Gulf Oil is drilling the world's deepest underground uranium mine at the base of the mountain. The gathering is to protest the continued exproation, mining and milling of uranium, and is held in solidarity with the National March for a Non-nuclear World in Washington D.C. on April 26.



FOOD AND CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED

CEAN is organizing a food and clothing drive to help the Indian people at Big Mountain, Arizona. Please bring your donations to the event, or call our office at 236-1684

PROTECT TRADITIONAL SACRED LANDS

PROTECT OUR MOTHER - THE EARTH

DEFEND SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS OF NATIVE PEOPLES

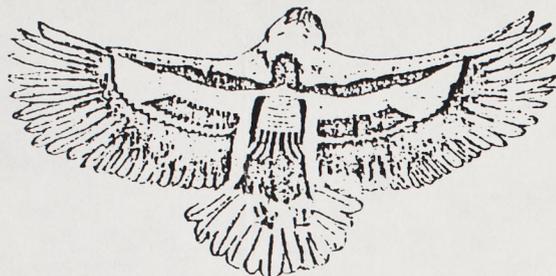
STOP URANIUM MINING/STOP NUCLEAR POWER/PROMOTE SAFE ENERGY

Sponsored by

Community Energy Action Network

PO Box 33686 San Diego, California 92103

236-1684



SATURDAY
April 12, 1980
Montezuma Hall

3:00 p.m. OPEN GOURD DANCE

Kumeyaay Singers

Cahuilla Bird Dancers

5:00 p.m. POW-WOW

Master of Ceremonies:

Melvin Deer, Kiowa/Muskogee

Southern Drum - Head Singer:

Art Ketcheshawno, Kickapoo

Northern Drum - Head Singer:

David Lee Netsosie, Navajo

The Earth Singers

Head Dancers:

Kenny Yakus, Kiowa

Donna Soloman, Omaha

Arena Director:

Virgil Pedro, Yavapai

Special Performances by:

--Sherman Indian High School's

Hopi Singers and Dancers and

Apache Singers and Dancers

--Aztec-Toltec Dancers

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT ALLIANCE
San Diego State University

President: Robert J. Levi^{II}, Cahuilla/Navajo
Vice-President: Steve Rouillard, Santee Sioux
Secretary: Virgil Pedro, Yavapai
Treasurer: Eric Hansen
A.S. Council: Rosie Kellywood, Navajo
Advisor: Priscilla Russo, Santee Sioux

On behalf of the NAISA I would like to extend my thanks to all the people who contributed to making the Eighth Annual American Indian Culture Days possible. Countless time and energy has been put forth by many individuals. I would like to thank the University for the use of its facilities, the Cultural Arts Board for its funding, American Indian Studies for its support, and those impossible to thank individually.

Robert J. Levi^{II}
President, NAISA

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES
San Diego State University
John C. Rouillard, Chair

FACULTY: G. Roy Cook
Gwen Cooper
John Rouillard
Priscilla Russo

STAFF: Florence Poston
Joyce Radcliffe
Bobbie Trujillo



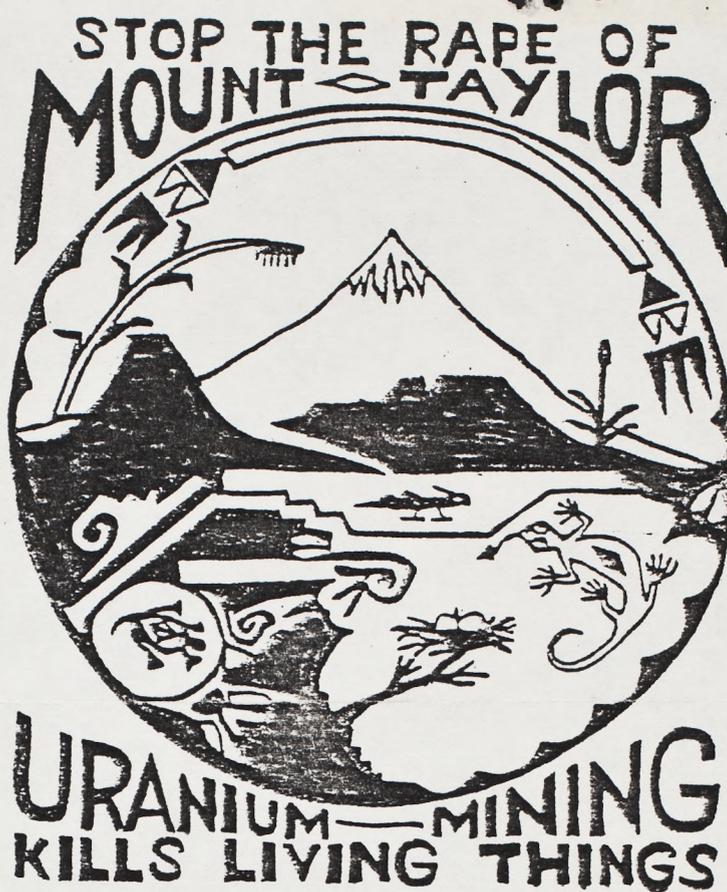
AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE-DAYS

April 10, 11, and 12, 1980

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

"CONTINUING THE CIRCLE"

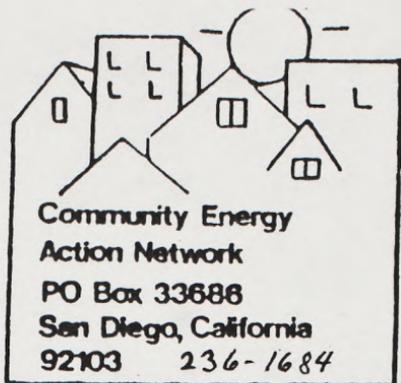
NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT ALLIANCE



236-1684

Coming Events

- April 10, Thursday, 12:30 PM
SDSU, Free-speech Area
- Three Native American speakers:
"Native Americans and the Nuclear Fuel Cycle"
 - Slide show on Southwest uranium mining following speakers
- April 10, Thursday, 7:30 PM
SDSU, Casa Real, Aztec Center
(CEAN/CAB event)
- Films: "Save the Planet" &
"Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang"
- April 11, Friday, 7:30 PM Casa Real
SDSU, Aztec Center
- Films: "On the Edge of the Forest" &
"New Sources of Energy"
- April 15, Tuesday, 7:30 PM, SDSU
Montezuma Hall, Aztec Center
- Robert Pollard, former safety expert for NRC, now with Union of Concerned Scientists--on reactor safety issues (CAB event)
- April 22, Tuesday, CEAN meeting, 7 PM
3025 Fir St. (Presbyterian Church)
- Slides and discussion of uranium mining and Native Americans
- April 26, 27, & 28
- "March for a Non-Nuclear World"
Washington D.C. Rallies, religious service, Lobbying, Civil Disobedience at Dept. of Energy and Pentagon
- Mt. Taylor Protest Rally and workshops
Dalton Pass, Grants, New Mexico
- May 2, Friday, 7:00 PM Chicano Cultural Center--Park Bl. across from Navy Hospital entrance
- Native American tour of Elders and activists from Black Hills and Southwest, on land rights & uranium mining. Entertainment.



CHICANO LAND GRANTS

Uranium Mining Kills All
Living Things

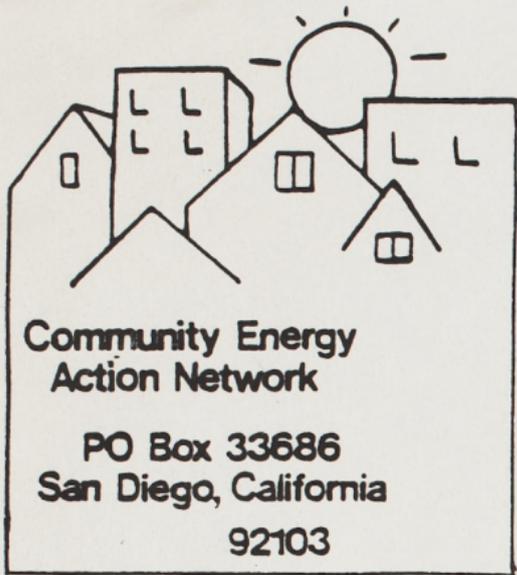
Land Rights Rip-off

Marquez, New Mexico, 37 miles Northwest of Albuquerque, is a Chicano community originally part of a vast Spanish land grant. Large tracts of land were deeded to early settlers and their decendants by the King of Spain in the 1600's.

The Land Grant areas were supposedly recognized by the U.S. government when it seized the territory in 1848. But the size of the grants has been whittled away by outsiders including cattle ranchers, tax-collectors, swindlers, oil companies, and now uranium mining interests such as Gulf, Bokum, Sohio and others.

Juan Tafoya Land Grant, once a vast 200,000 acres is now a mere 3,840 acres. The mining royalty paid to the owners is only 8% of the value of refined uranium, lowest payment in the area of the small Marquez community. The site contains an estimated 10 million pounds of uranium, promised to fuel two nuclear reactors on Long Island, N.Y. Bokum resources is developing the land into a 35 million dollar mining and milling operation.

Of New Mexico's uranium reserves, more than 15% is on Chicano land grants. The Chicano people have suffered the same disastrous effects of uranium mining as the Indians of the Southwest. Miners of mostly Chicano and Navajo ancestry are dying of lung cancer. Air and water are contaminated by radiation, and the area is subjected to boom and bust economics. Chicano people have pledged solidarity with Indians in their common struggle against the big corporations' and Federal agencies' attempts to steal the land.



Community Energy
Action Network

PO Box 33686
San Diego, California
92103

file

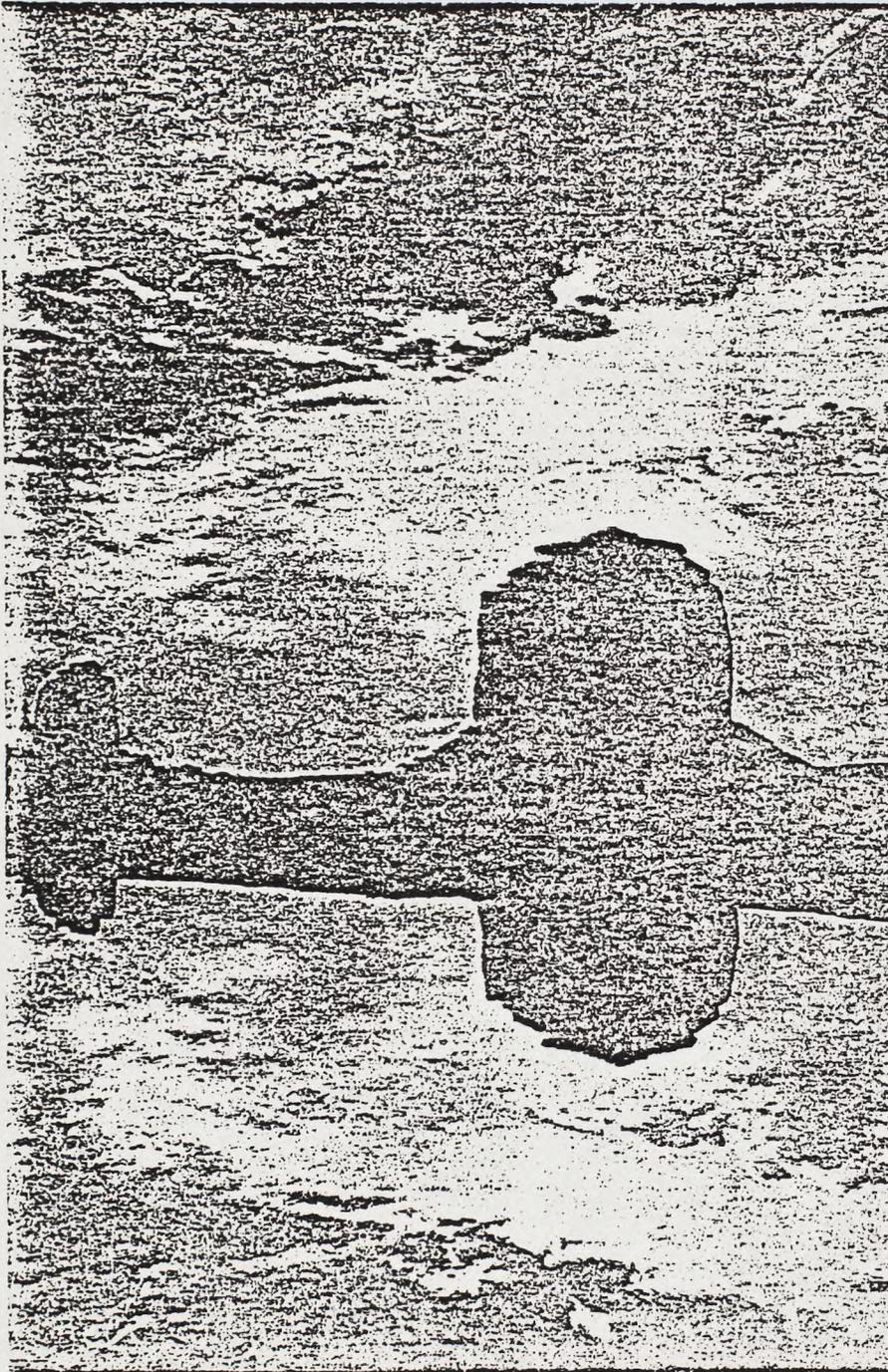


Herman Baca
CCR
1837 Highland Ave.
National City, Ca.
92050

Plundering the powerless

Uranium mining threatens a land and its people.

Gail Robinson



The striking landscape of New Mexico could be ravaged by uranium mining.

A lot of the debate over nuclear power centers around probability figures. Is the chance of a major nuclear accident greater than the chance of a giant meteor crashing to the earth? How many operating years can we expect to go without a meltdown?

Even after the near disaster at Three Mile Island, government officials resorted to using probability figures as a way of assessing the damage. HEW Secretary Joseph Califano solemnly told a congressional committee that the accident could cause one to 10 additional cancer deaths in the Middletown, Penn. area.

But for residents of uranium mining areas, the effects of nuclear power are not abstract statistics. There are very real cancer deaths, mountains of radioactive mill tailings (the debris left when the uranium used in power plants is removed from the raw ore), holes drilled in the ground and livestock dying because of contaminated water.

Uranium mining always seems to be done in far flung places—the northern reaches of Saskatchewan, the Black Hills of South Dakota, the desolate mesas of New Mexico and parts of Wyoming. Much of the land on which uranium is found belongs to the relatively powerless—to Chicanos and Indians living isolated existences (see p. 5). In fact, according to the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, 75 to 80 percent of U.S. uranium reserves are on Indian land. These people are now seeing their land gutted for precious nuclear fuel, or “yellowcake.”

But the Native Americans are fighting back. Their battle against the federal government and a bevy of large corporations over uranium mining in the Southern Powder River Basin of Wyoming and the San Juan Uranium Region of New Mexico may prove to be the greatest challenge yet to uranium mining in the United States.

Uranium mining—largely because of the amount of radioactivity it generates—



Walter Peshlakai, one of the plaintiffs in the Navajo's uranium mining suit, lives on land that has been leased to United Nuclear Corp. for uranium exploration, mining and milling.

presents a host of environmental problems.

- Water has to be pumped out of surface and underground mines. This can lower the local water table and may contaminate the remaining groundwater.

- When wastewater from the mines is dumped, as it usually is, in dry stream beds, the mine pollutants are spread over a large area.

- Acres of land are disrupted, first for exploratory drilling and then for the mines and mills themselves, for the drilling rigs and for access roads to the areas.

- Dangerous radon gas is vented from the mines so miners won't have to breathe concentrated doses. But the gas then pollutes the air surrounding the mines. Radioactive dust, raised in the mining and milling process, also wafts into the air.

When the ore is finally extracted from either a deep or a surface mine, it must be refined into yellowcake. Left behind are literally millions of tons of tailings which, because of their very volume, are extremely difficult to dispose of. For a time these tailings were thought to be safe—they were used as a construction material in Grand Junction, Colo.—but now their radioactivity is considered hazardous.

To avoid some of these problems, uranium companies have begun using a technique known as *in situ* mining; holes are drilled into the uranium ore and a chemical that extracts the uranium is injected into the holes. The mining and milling are combined into one operation, avoiding the tailings problem but creating other difficulties. The chemical solution enters the groundwater supply and, even

after the mining is completed, the chemicals can continue to pollute the underground aquifer.

For the Navajos in New Mexico, though, the documented environmental problems—the presence of airborne radioactive particles, the contamination of the water supply—are not the only threats of uranium mining.



Another plaintiff in the Navajo's suit is Mary Largo, who was surprised one morning to find men drilling holes in front of her home.

Many of the Navajos on the affected land live on 160 acre allotments. They consider their land to be community property and use much of it for grazing. These Navajos still speak their own language and have managed to maintain much of their traditional culture. Now the influx of hundreds of Anglo outsiders threatens to destroy sacred land and, eventually strain Navajo culture to the breaking point.

Lisa Gmuca, a lawyer for DNA People's Legal Services, which represents the Indians, explains, "A lot of people have very strong religious attitudes toward the land and think this drilling and blasting is an indignity to the land that will have dire consequences for them and for everyone everywhere. . . . One Navajo said that by taking uranium out of the land, you are going to create an imbalance which will result in forces you can not control—a cataclysmic event."

Their very isolation has made the Indians an easy target for the uranium companies. Under the regulations governing Indian allotments, both the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the individual Indian have to approve any lease of the land. According to DNA attorney Joseph Gmuca, the BIA approval is usually a rubber stamp. The Navajos are confronted with a thick lease, written in legalese and dealing with concepts foreign to them and their culture. As Joseph Gmuca said, "A lot of people out there still don't know what uranium mining is," and there isn't even a Navajo word for "lease."

But once the mining begins—and it has on Navajo lands—its impact becomes only too clear. According to Peterson Zah, a Navajo who is director of DNA Legal Services, one 78 year old woman woke up one morning to find men drilling holes in the land between her house and her corral. And Joseph Gmuca tells the story of a woman who was supposed to inherit land from her father. By the time the will was probated, the land was being drilled even though she had never given the company permission to do so. A breeder of prize rodeo horses, she has seen seven of the \$1,000 animals die from drinking contaminated water.

In an effort to halt the uranium mining, 93 Native Americans have joined forces with Friends of the Earth and filed suit against six government agencies. The complaint alleged that the government violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by allowing such com-

panies as United Nuclear, Mobil, Phillips Petroleum and Continental Oil to drill for uranium on government land without preparing the proper environmental impact statements.

Norman Dean, a Washington attorney representing the Indians, charges, "Here you have just a smattering of site specific statements, you have no regional statement and no national program statement."

Dean says the lawyers decided to concentrate on the NEPA aspects of the issue because "we had to narrow the range of issues to deal with."

Since the action was filed, energy companies involved in the area have sought to enter the case on behalf of the government. And the Justice Department, which is representing the Interior, Energy and Agriculture Departments, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has filed an answer to the charges. In it, the government admits that some of the environmental damages mentioned in the suit may occur. For example, the government acknowledges that mining can lower the water level and that land is disturbed by the mining. But basically the government maintains that these impacts are not as severe as the Indians' complaints would have you believe.

The government also concedes that some environmental impact statements



Sarah McCray breeds prize rodeo horses, seven of which have died from drinking water contaminated with uranium.

were not prepared. For instance, the Justice Department maintains that regional environmental impact statements are not necessary because, it says, there is no regional plan for uranium development.

Regardless of who is right on narrow legal grounds, the complaint brings up the question of what, exactly, the Navajos hope to gain from the suit.

Many environmentalists, opposed to nuclear power in general, would like to

see uranium mining stopped altogether, and some Navajos, of course, are against any disruption of their land. But many others would welcome the uranium mining and its financial rewards. According to Joseph Gmuca, some of the Indians who now live at subsistence level on small plots of land could become millionaires.

"All our suit is asking for is environmental impact statements," Lisa Gmuca explains. "Since some of our clients would want to develop land for energy resources, if there was a safe way of doing it, that's all we can ask for."

Dean notes that the motivations of the clients in the case vary, but that all are hoping to lessen the environmental damage from uranium mining and milling. "Through the process of assessing the impacts," he says, "certain steps can be taken to lessen them."

Although some of the Navajos undoubtedly want the money, for others, the idea of becoming a millionaire is difficult to grasp. Traditionally their culture has been based on grazing and on barter and the only material possession many own is a pickup truck.

Energy from the Navajo lands is exported. It fuels cities like Los Angeles and provides the neon glitter of Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Peterson Zah's parents live under a string of powerlines. But all those wires do for them is block the sky. They still have to chop their own wood. ■

The yellowcake connection

Or how nuclear power ties suburban Long Island to a tiny town 2000 miles away.

Dede Feldman

Across the valley, about two miles from where she is standing at the Casita de Marquez Mexican Take Out Stand, Cecilia Martinez points out two large barren peaks.

"Can you see those caves over there in the side of that mesa?" she asks. "Here in the village we've used them for prayer and religious purposes for hundreds of years. Juan Tafoya, who founded this land grant, lived in one of them

Dede Feldman built her own passive solar home in Albuquerque, N.M.

and fought off the Apaches. We used to keep our saints there. Now we've moved our Santos up to our schoolhouse—we're afraid the caves will be damaged by all the blasting."

As Cecilia Martinez talks, the sounds of earth moving machinery, trucks and cranes punctuate her remarks.

The blasting and the excavating is all being done by Bokum Resources Inc., which is building a \$35 million uranium mining and milling operation in the rugged landscape around Marquez, 37 miles northwest of Albuquerque. While the village is a world away from the stalled expressways, busy shopping centers and densely populated subdivisions of

Spanish land grant info ↓

Long Island, the New York suburb's thirst for energy has brought the two areas together in a strange relationship—a relationship built around nuclear power.

Marquez is the site of an estimated 10 million pounds of uranium, slated for use in two nuclear power plants now being built by the Long Island Lighting Co. (LILCO). Bokum, a New Mexico company, has agreed to sell LILCO the uranium to power those plants. And in return for loaning Bokum \$50 million, LILCO will receive not only 10.5 percent interest a year but a substantial discount on the precious yellowcake.

LILCO's deal with Bokum, made in 1976, exemplifies the new, more direct relationship between utilities and their sources of uranium. Already other Eastern utilities, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, are heavily involved in uranium mining ventures, a trend that began two years ago when Westinghouse Electric Corp. backed out of a deal to sell uranium to utilities at \$40 a pound. Now, many utilities are willing to gamble on a loan to uranium companies—with the coveted uranium as collateral. In the Bokum case, LILCO will hold the mortgage on the Marquez mine and mill until the loan is repaid in 1986.

But all is not running smoothly for Bokum and LILCO. In New Mexico, where some 50 percent of the nation's uranium lies, the Bokum transaction has become the focus of a controversy which reaches from the old school house in Marquez all the way up to the state Environmental Improve-

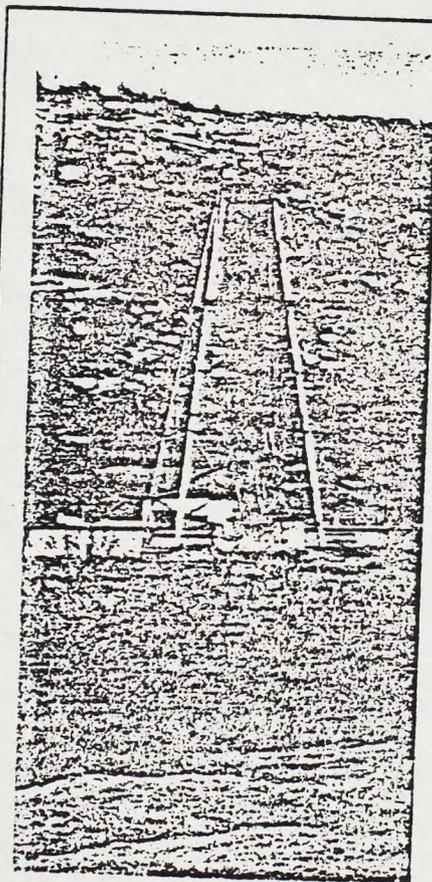
ment Division. And if the state can't control the uranium development—and it has not in the past—the people of Marquez and other Chicano and Indian towns in New Mexico may be paying for Eastern nuclear power with their land, their health and their heritage.

Already, there are signs of Bokum's development in Marquez. West of the town, dwarfing the wood cottages and adobe houses, is a tall drilling rig. Now in the early stages of its mining operation, Bokum is pumping thousands of acre-feet of water out of the mine and dumping it in Juan Tafoya Creek, the lifeblood of the small town. Local residents are afraid their water is being contaminated.

"We used to drink right out of the stream that runs here in town, but now even our cows and horses won't drink out of it, it's so contaminated," says Cecilia Martinez, part owner of the Casita de Marquez. But company officials contend the water is not radioactive and, in any event, they say, the situation is only temporary. Eventually the water from the mine will be pumped to the mill.

The land that Bokum is mining is land grant land; it was decided to early Spanish settlers and their heirs by the king of Spain in the 1600s. And although the grants were recognized by the United States when it seized the area in 1848, the deeds have been a continuing source of controversy.

For years the village of Marquez, built on an almost 200,000 acre land grant, was small and self sufficient. Small



The signs of uranium mining, such as this drilling rig, are already visible in Marquez.

The Santa Fe link

While Bokum Resources is unknown to the Easterners who will get power from its uranium, the company is infamous in New Mexico. Unlike many of the large multinational corporations stripping and drilling for New Mexico uranium, Bokum is a New Mexico company with roots in local politics and friends in high places.

Formed in 1972, Bokum Resources is the latest of several uranium companies headed by local uranium explorer and entrepreneur Richard Bokum, a man state residents believe has a "yellow thumb." As president of the Bokum Corporation, Bokum Resources' predecessor, and earlier as president of United Nuclear, Richard Bokum has drilled holes, bulldozed roads and staked claims on federal and private land in the Grants uranium belt for the last 20 years.

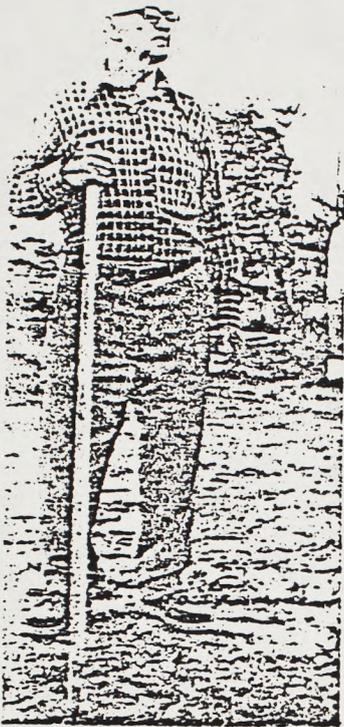
The history of Bokum Resources' attempts to mine uranium in the Marquez corner of this belt, which also includes a mountain held sacred by Navajos, Acomas and Lagunas, has featured confrontations with local

environmentalists and with the state Environmental Improvement Division. But despite the opposition, Bokum thinks it will get to build its Marquez mine.

Although the company has no permanent license for the mine, Bokum vice president William Biava told a Santa Fe newspaper in December, "We've encountered this kind of decision before a few times and we have not been held up."

The company has reason to be confident. Bokum has lots of strings it can pull.

For example, a recent stock fraud case involving Bokum Resources revealed that several members of the state legislature and the head of the New Mexico Public Service Commission had received "gifts" of stock from Richard Bokum. Among the legislators were three who sponsored an unsuccessful bill to appropriate \$2 million in state funds to pave a road to the Marquez mine. The FBI is now investigating Bokum's generosity—a generosity which Bokum has said ex-



Gilberto Marquez recalls the way his village used to be: "When this was a free country there were no fences and everybody had a good living."

scale cattle ranching and sheep herding were the residents' primary occupations, and large tracts of land were owned, irrigated and farmed communally. One of the heirs to the original grant, Dora Lovato, says the village "used to be such a warm, happy place. Everyone helped each other, and religion was very strong. There was a group of Penetentes [Spanish brothers] who lived at the edge of town, and there were processions. Once a year, the whole community got together to clean out the ditches we used to irrigate our fields."

But the land grants—and the way of life on them—have been repeatedly threatened by outsiders—cattle ranchers, tax collectors, lawyers and, most recently, uranium companies like Gulf, Sohio and Bokum Resources. As outsiders whittled away at the grant, the lure of city jobs and excitement beckoned hundreds of land grant heirs who left the village. But the memory of life in the village and the dream of returning lived on.

Gilberto Marquez, whose family came to the village generations ago, recalls, "When this was a free country, there were no fences and everybody had a good living. Then the Texans and the cattle companies took our land."

Another of Marquez's old men, Mariano Lucero, agrees. "It used to be all open," he says. "But the people were chased off by outsiders who put up fences and stole land out from people. Now all we have is 3,840 acres. We live in just a corral."

But that corral houses more than horses. Marquez is now

tends to "friends who have helped us in the past and might help us in the future."

The complete list of Bokum Resources stockholders reads like a who's who in New Mexico politics, with heavy representation from the family of the late U.S. Sen. Joseph Montoya of New Mexico. And, coincidentally, Bokum vice president Biava's partner in a \$43,500 racketball venture is former Gov. Jerry Apodaca, who allegedly put intense pressure on the state Environmental Improvement Division to issue a "conditional" license for Bokum's mill.

Bokum Resources has a history of trying to defy state and federal authority. In 1975, it refused to submit information for an environmental analysis of its plans to bulldoze a road into the roadless Water Canyon area of Cibola National Forest.

Under pressure from Bokum, the U.S. Forest Service said no environmental report was needed. On Aug. 25, 1975, enraged local environmentalists blocked the entrance to the

canyon, saying Bokum's plans for mining the area would destroy any hopes of wilderness protection. The Sierra Club and other environmental groups took the issue to the courts, but lost in their efforts to preserve the wilderness.

Other Bokum Resources controversies have been internal. In January 1979, the company lost a stock fraud case that had been pending in state courts for several months. The court ordered the company to pay \$2.5 mil-

lion in damages to minority stockholders who charged that they had been cheated by Bokum on a stock tender offer in 1975.

The plaintiffs, two prominent Albuquerque businessmen, claimed Richard Bokum did not reveal the company's forthcoming deal with Long Island Lighting Co., its new uranium discoveries and a forthcoming 99 to 1 stock split when he tried to buy their shares in the company for \$7.20 apiece.

—D.F.



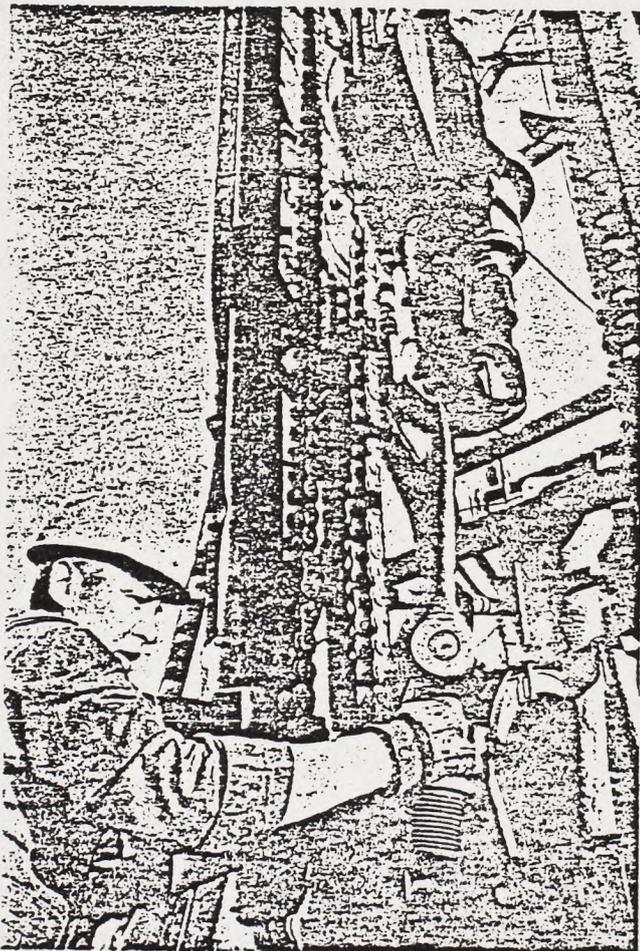
Bokum Resources is planning to fill this riverbed, or arroyo, with radioactive mill tailings.

home to trailers, heavy equipment, settling ponds and drilling rigs; eventually there will be a concrete mill on the mesa overlooking the town. And two large mine vents will soon be spewing toxic radon gas into the air.

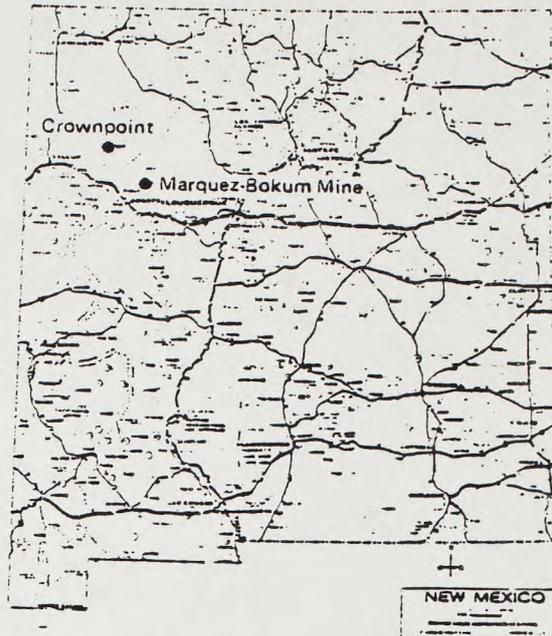
From the state government's point of view, however, the main problem with Bokum's plans is the disposal of an estimated 20 million tons of uranium mill tailings, which will remain near Marquez after the uranium is shipped to Long Island. Tailings are the dust like debris left over after the uranium—or yellowcake—has been leached out of the raw ore. They can contain as much as 85 percent of the uranium's original radioactivity.

In the past year, as evidence has mounted that the radioactive elements—particularly radon gas—left in the tailings piles cause cancer, uranium tailings have become a hot issue in New Mexico. State health officials are worried about the 60-million-ton of uncovered mill tailings which had been left at 10 New Mexico sites by 1977, and they are anxious about who will clean up the additional 547 million tons of tailings to be generated in the state by the year 2000.

Originally, Bokum had hoped to pile the tailings from the Marquez mine behind a dam straddling a usually dry riverbed—known as "an arroyo" in New Mexico. After the state Environmental Protection Division rejected Bokum's proposal to build the dam itself out of tailings, the company



John Lewis, a Navajo, works at a rig used to drill holes for uranium exploration.



agreed to construct an elaborate diversion dam. Without such a barrier, the tailings would erode and drift downward toward Albuquerque.

But problems still remained. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pointed out that the dam would have to be maintained as long as the tailings contained some radioactivity—in other words, for as long as 800,000 years. So last fall, the NRC, acting as a consultant to the state, notified Bokum and the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division that the project could not be licensed.

Undaunted, Bokum put its political muscle to work (see box). Meanwhile, the company scampered through a loophole in state law that allows construction to begin on a mining and milling operation before the license is issued.

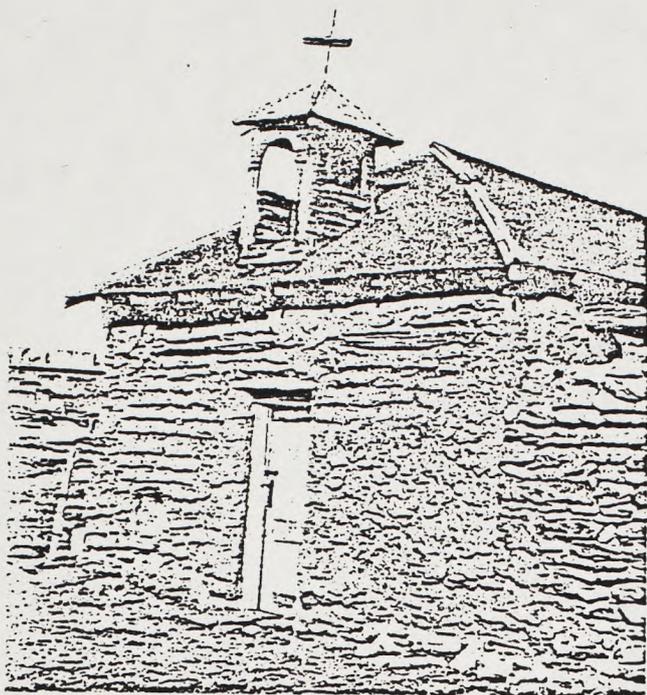
Apparently alarmed at any crimp being placed in Bokum's plans, outgoing Gov. Jerry Apodaca ranted at several top environmental officials, accusing them of needlessly delaying Bokum's license application. One agency employee reported that the governor politely warned them not to issue an environmental report that would put Bokum in a bad light. In addition, U.S. Sen. Peter Domenici of New Mexico reportedly called the NRC in Washington to argue Bokum's case.

One or all of these maneuvers did the trick. On Oct. 1, 1978, New Mexico issued a "conditional" license to Bokum—the first such license ever granted in the state.

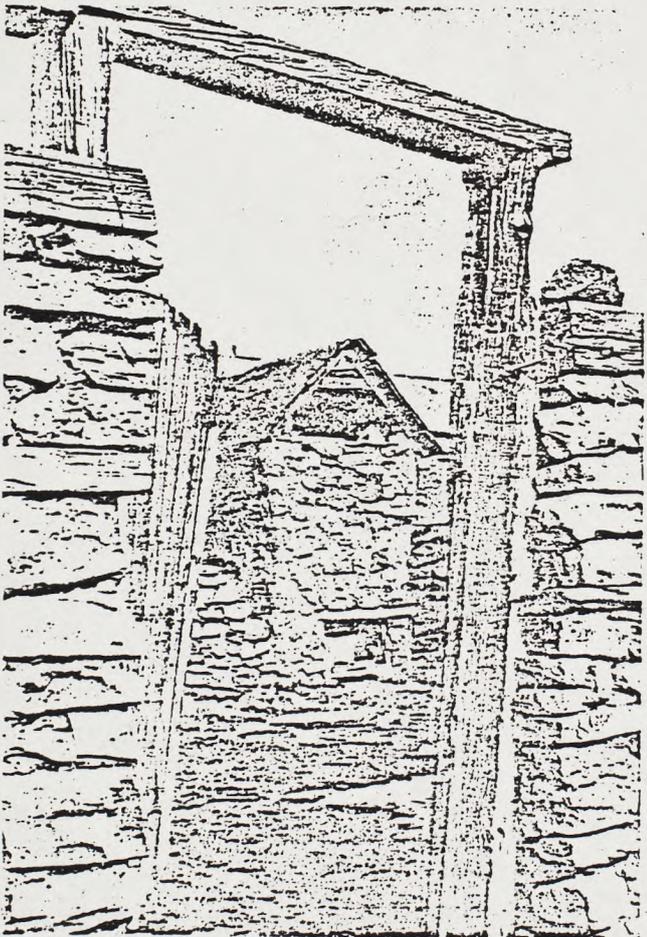
Not surprisingly, there were protests. Pat Donohue, the only Environmental Improvement scientist empowered to issue a license, resigned in protest, infuriated that a facility was going to be built which, he felt, was hazardous to the health of people living in the Marquez area. And Al Topp of the division's Radiation Protection Department complained, "I'm bothered by the truculence of the applicant. They just keep on building in spite of repeated warnings."

Topp thinks the project is virtually unlicensable. There are, he maintains, "lots of real problems out there. We still don't have a real tailings diversion plan, and the groundwater issue [contamination of water beneath the earth's surface] is all but insurmountable."

At press time, the groundwater issue was being debated



The remnants of an old way of life are still visible in the Southwest, but some area residents believe their traditions are threatened by uranium mining. Pictured above is an old chapel in Marquez; below is a reminder of the way Grants, a uranium mining center, used to look.



at a lengthy hearing in Santa Fe. A number of groups, including the Sierra Club, New Mexicans for Clean Air and Water, the Sandoval Environmental Action Community and a small group of Navajos whose grazing land is downriver from Bokum's tailings disposal pit are fighting the company. Outraged by Bokum's political pull, these groups have vowed to fight the company every step of the way.

Bokum, on the other hand, sees itself as a catalyst for progress which is being stopped by people who simply are not in sync with the modern world. Sitting in his Santa Fe office, Bokum vice president William Biava complains, "We have some people over there who don't want progress at all. They want to go back to the dark ages. They couldn't care less if the uranium industry went down the tube. They delay you and delay you to the point where they'd destroy you if you have a time pressure."

And the mine superintendent, Arthur Watkins, doesn't understand why the people of Marquez can't see the situation Bokum's way. "The people here really don't have much to complain about," he says. "Bokum's bringing a lot of work to the area, plus residents get a royalty on all the uranium produced."

Today, as construction on the mine proceeds, some 380 men are employed at the site. These workers provide business for Cecilia Martinez's food stand. And some of the people who left town as the land was whittled away have returned in the hopes of finding a job in the mines or the mill.

But the promise held out by Watkins may be empty. According to information supplied by Bokum to the Environmental Improvement Division, while the mill, when finished, will provide about 45 permanent jobs and the mine 110, many of these may not go to area residents. Even if they do, the Marquez residents may find the jobs aren't worth it since uranium miners are subjected to a constant barrage of low level radiation.

There is, as Watkins says, a provision for a royalty to be paid to the Juan Tafoya Land Grant Corporation, the modern day equivalent of the old land grant. But it's only 8 percent—the lowest such payment in the area, lower even than the rockbottom royalties negotiated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for neighboring Indian tribes. And, according to Dora Lovato, one of the land grant heirs, time and internal disputes have divided the heirs, so many people who live in Marquez won't get any royalty money.

In the wake of the Bokum deal, the old land grant community split. One faction in Marquez has leased its land to Bokum, but other village residents are more loathe to part with the past—or with the uranium. And they have good reason to distrust Bokum, which has estimated the Marquez property to be worth \$48 million.

After the 20 year lease is up, land grant heirs will be left with the \$300,000 rent they received for the land and with as many as 20 million tons of radioactive uranium mill tailings. Their land and water may well be poisoned and the excavations and roads needed for the mining and milling could leave the landscape permanently scarred.

"They tell us there will be lots of money here," Lovato says, "but for who? Those of us who have been born and raised here have been left out."

The saints aren't the only ones whose existence is endangered.

Premier Issue

Help us name this newsletter

Energy News for San Diego County

A Project of
Community
Energy
Action
Network

Volume 1
Number 1
March/April 1980

Formerly CEAN News
(As in keen)

Three Mile Island

We are resolved that the nuclear plant at Three Mile Island will never reopen . . . that all nuclear facilities, both civilian and military be shut down . . . that the terror, the lies and the destruction be terminated immediately and permanently.

Residents of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

One Year Later

The Three Mile Island nuclear power plant came within 30 to 60 minutes of a complete meltdown of the reactor fuel, an event that would have required "at least the precautionary evacuation of thousands" of residents from the area near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This information was released January 24, 1980 in a draft report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) "Special Inquiry Group", headed by Washington D.C. attorney Mitchell Rogovin. The seven-month investigation warned that nuclear accidents like the one at Three Mile Island (TMI) "could have happened in a lot of places", and that there is nothing to keep similar accidents from occurring in the future. The panel added that new nuclear plants should be sited 25-40 miles from population centers.

Both the Rogovin report and the Kemeny Commission have concluded that the five-member NRC is incapable of managing a comprehensive nuclear safety program, and have recommended abolishing the Commission and replacing it with a single administrator.

The strongest recommendation of the Rogovin report is that evacuation of persons within 20-25 miles of a plant is a "realistic, necessary precautionary measure, even at levels of radioactive release well below previously formulated federal protective action guidelines." The report urges a standardized 30-mile radius for evacuation plans for existing plants. Existing plants that are too close to population centers (e.g., San Onofre), or that are unable to meet requirements might be forced to shut down.

Other recommendations included in the draft report were:

- * A moratorium on construction permits for new reactors until reforms are implemented
- * Funding for intervenors in legal proceedings
- * Major improvements in NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement
- * One-step licensing procedures for standardized reactor designs

And the beat goes on. Continuing leaks, continuing coverups, continuing confusion. Take, for example, a sampling of TMI news from just one week in early February:

Feb. 11 1,000 gallons of radioactive gas leaked from a cooling system on to the floor of an auxiliary building. Eleven workers inside the building were exposed.

Please turn to page 4

Never Again

**Walk for a Nuclear-Free Future
Friday, March 28, 12 noon
Community Concourse (3rd & B)**

Join us in the downtown San Diego Walk for a Nuclear-Free Future on March 28, the first anniversary of the accident at Three Mile Island. Wear costumes, bring noisemakers, make your own signs with a safe energy, anti-nuclear theme. Come early and help us leaflet. We will also be leafletting each day for a week preceding the walk. All over the nation people will be wearing green armbands in solidarity with the Pennsylvania victims of Three Mile Island. The green armbands symbolize the determination of concerned people that Three Mile Island will not be forgotten.

The CEAN walk will leave the Community Concourse shortly after noon and proceed energetically up Second Avenue to San Diego Gas & Electric's headquarters at 101 Ash Street. From there we'll be heading down First Street on our way to the Federal Building Plaza at Broadway and Front Street. There we will hear from Don Widener, the film producer who was fired from his job at a Los Angeles TV station for making a documentary called *The Powers That Be*. Another of his films, *Plutonium: Element of Risk*, will be shown the night before (March 27) at San Diego State University (7:30 pm, Monty's Den, Aztec Center).

On March 28, CEAN will also sponsor a utility rate protest. You will find out how you can protest that portion of your electric bill that goes for nuclear power. A news conference will follow to discuss the significance of Three Mile Island

Please turn to page 3

CEAN
P.O. Box 33686
San Diego, CA
92103

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 1588
San Diego, CA.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Myth of the Energy Crisis

It has become fashionable to lament U.S. dependence on foreign oil and our vulnerability and helplessness in the face of foreign control. The need for total self-sufficiency and the exaggeration of our energy needs are myths that are perpetuated by the energy corporations, the utilities and related industry and government representatives whose interests lie in greater control over global resources, greater profits and increasingly centralized control over our population.

Every nation is dependent on every other nation for natural resources, technical know-how, food, and essential materials of all kinds. It is ironic to speak of economic independence since much of our wealth and prosperity is a result of our disproportionate use of the world's resources. Representing 6% of the world's population, we use more than 30% of the world's natural wealth and waste more energy than 2/3 of the world's people use. The issue is not self-sufficiency, but whether we recognize

the need to preserve limited natural resources and recognize the right of other nations to theirs, or whether we are, in Senator Hatfield's words, "willing to kill to keep our cars running."

The multinationals are the primary beneficiaries of our energy "crisis". Their reported profits are up as much as 600%, with profit margins for oil company refineries reaching 800%. Exxon, the largest of the giants, had \$4 billion in profits in 1979, with a total revenue in excess of \$89 billion, more than the Gross National Product of Sweden. It has been estimated that President Carter's full decontrol will add a trillion dollars to the revenues of the oil corporation in the decade ahead.

Elizabeth Holtzman, Congresswoman from New York, recently stated that even the Federal government has no idea what the oil corporations profits or reserves really are.

Please turn to page 4

CINEMATOMICS

CEAN is proud to present a film series of anti-nuclear and alternative energy films. The films deal with a side of nuclear power that has been consistently concealed from the public.

On Thursday, March 27, Mr. Don Widener, producer of *Plutonium: Element of Risk*, will be our special guest. Mr. Widener produced three energy-related films which provoked a campaign by Pacific Gas & Electric that resulted in a "blacklisting" of Widener lasting 5 years. After several years of court battles for defamation of character, Widener won a major suit against PG&E.

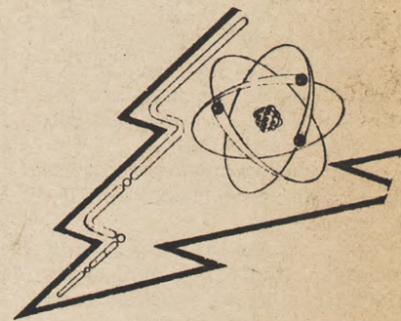
**MARCH 20
HARRISBURG
DANGER! RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

**MARCH 21
MORE NUCLEAR
POWER STATIONS
SENTENCED TO SUCCESS**

**MARCH 27
MR. DON WIDENER
PLUTONIUM: ELEMENT OF RISK**

**APRIL 10
SAVE THE PLANET
PAUL JACOBS AND
THE NUCLEAR GANG**

**APRIL 11
ON THE EDGE OF THE FOREST
NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY**



All films will be shown at San Diego State University in Casa Real, Aztec Center, EXCEPT Thursday, March 27, which will be shown in Monty's Den, Aztec Center. Show time: 7:30 pm.

Films will also be shown each day at University of California, San Diego in the North Conference Room of the Student Center. Show time: 3:00 pm.

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

"Our Sheep Don't Read"

A Report on the Worst Radiation Accident in History

Editor's Note:

Join Native Americans at the sacred site of Mt. Taylor, New Mexico the weekend of April 26-28, 1980. We must let the world know that we oppose the wholesale rape of Native American lands and the decimation of Native American peoples. Mt. Taylor is the site of the world's deepest uranium mine, being dug by Gulf Atomic, and the center of the Native struggle to reclaim the land that is rightfully theirs. Call CEAN for further information.

The nation's worst radioactive accident threatens to damage hundreds of square miles of land and injure the health and well-being of thousands of people and livestock, but the consequences of the accident went largely unreported outside of the accident area. Four and one-half months after the accident, approximately 60 downstream miles of the Rio Puerco river, from Church Rock, N.M., into Arizona, remains unfit for human and animal use.

The river was contaminated July 16, when 100 million gallons of radioactive water and 1,100 tons of contaminated debris spilled from United Nuclear Corp.'s (UNC) waste storage lagoon at the company's Church Rock uranium mining facility.

Residents of the New Mexico towns of Gallup, Lupton, and Sanders, and a large segment of the Navajo Indian Nation, all served by the Rio Puerco, cannot drink the water, cannot let their livestock drink the water, and cannot use the water for their crops.

The residents are alarmed by reports that subterranean water deposits are being contaminated by seepage and wonder if they will ever be able to use the river again. Now they must also worry about accidents from the same source in the future.

United Nuclear Corp. received permission from New Mexico officials to resume operations at the mine in mid-November, using a section of undamaged storage area adjacent to the one which broke on July 16.

The contamination caused by the spill will not disappear, and it seems likely that clean-up efforts following the accident were insufficient to assure the health and safety of area residents. The large amounts of radioactivity released could contaminate not only the river, but also the riverbed and the soil adjacent to the river banks. In short, the July 16 spill contaminated farmland, drinking water and livestock.

UNC proposed a three part plan to New Mexico officials to repair and eventually reuse the storage area which broke. The first part of the plan, which was approved by the state and is now in operation, calls for using the intact north section of the storage area. The broken dam was in the south section.

The second part of the plan, calls for a 10-foot increase in the height of the dam wall. New Mexico officials have asked UNC for more information.

The third recommendation is to fix the broken dam. New Mexico officials have said no.

Clean-up along the Rio Puerco will continue, state officials say, until radiological monitoring shows radiation levels to be normal — which some environmentalists say may never be. Paul Robinson, of the Southwest Research and Information Center, a public interest research group, says samples taken 15 miles downstream from Church Rock, 30 feet to 40 feet deep, show "growing contamination," indicating widespread seepage. Clean-up is aimed only at shallow contamination.

Navajo representatives say clean up began one month after the spill, allowing seepage and drainage to go unchecked. The area's rainy season was at its height at the time of the spill and when clean-up began. The rains have washed contaminated materials downstream.

The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division (EID) has not made an official statement about the environmental impact of the contamination of the Rio Puerco, but New Mexico and

to state agencies. Jana Bommersbach, writing on the spill in the Phoenix, Ariz. newsweekly, *New Times Weekly*, said New Mexico's regulatory program is "so weak. . . that responsibility for the massive spill must be laid on the capital steps in Santa Fe."

About 49 percent of the nation's uranium is mined and milled along a 10-mile stretch between Church Rock and the city of Gallup, an area known as the Grants Mineral Belt. Bommersbach notes, with considerable concern, that New Mexico officials had "no idea something was wrong with the storage dam at one of the largest uranium mills in the



Arizona officials issued warnings for people and livestock to stay away from the water. New Mexico officials demanded UNC post warning signs along the river. When the signs were posted, one Navajo Indian complained, "our sheep don't read."

Dan Cobb, managing editor of the *Gallup Independent*, says the signs' problems aren't only with animals: "In English they say 'warning.' In Spanish they say 'the Environmental Improvement Division does not recommend the use of this water.' It doesn't matter what they say in Navajo because Navajo is not a written language. Navajos don't read Navajo."

In any case, the signs are posted every half mile along the Rio Puerco in New Mexico and not likely to be seen by many people who use the river. In Arizona, no signs are posted and no clean-up has been done.

The dam which broke July 16 was only partly constructed. Approved plans for construction of the dam called for it to be 70 feet higher than it was on July 16. UNC officials decided to add height as they needed it, thus keeping the dam in the "under construction" category of New Mexico state engineers' records. When completed, the dam would have been subject to inspection by state officials. Since it was incomplete, state officials relied on inspections conducted by UNC's own consultants.

Steven Reynolds, New Mexico state engineer, said the dam broke because of cracks due to "improper construction." The dam was supposed to be made of impermeable clay and permeable "sandy-rock," which was designed to prohibit cracks from extending through the dam. As it happens, UNC used about half as much sandy-rock as required, according to J.L. Whiteman, chief of design and construction for the state engineer's office.

Poor supervision of construction is a sign of a generally weak nuclear regulatory system in both New Mexico and Arizona, nuclear critics contend. Both states regulate their nuclear activities under the Agreement States Program with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Agreement States Program delegates some regulatory responsibilities from the NRC

Grants Mineral Belt." Critics point to this lack of concern as evidence that the Agreement States Program does not work in New Mexico.

Nothing seems to have bothered area residents so much as their feelings they were ignored by national media and by state officials. "The principle thing that comes into play here," managing editor Cobb says, "is the national media attitude that if it doesn't happen on the East or West Coast, it's not worthy of note." The *New York Times* mentioned the spill 12 days after it happened in a short news story. The *Los Angeles Times* gave slightly more thorough coverage, largely because California officials were concerned the contamination could reach the Southern California water supply coming from Lake Mead, Ariz.

Concern so far among area residents seems to have focussed on the unreliability of UNC and New Mexico officials. There is, along the Rio Puerco, a growing sense of distrust.

"The company designed the facility at the wrong site, they lied on how they would operate it, they have been slow in cleaning up and they've proven themselves unreliable," Robinson, of the Southwest Research and Information Center, said. So far, the NRC has called the Church Rock site, "inadequate."

"Nobody really knows what it (the contamination) is going to do and how long it's going to last," Cobb says. For the time being, the people must rely on the industry and regulatory process which already failed them once.

Portions of this story were based on information originally appearing in "Uranium Spill" by Jana Bommersbach, *New Times Weekly*. (10/3-9, 1979).

Mark Alan Pinsky/Critical Mass Journal/Dec. '79

From the newsletter of the San Diego Center for Appropriate Technology

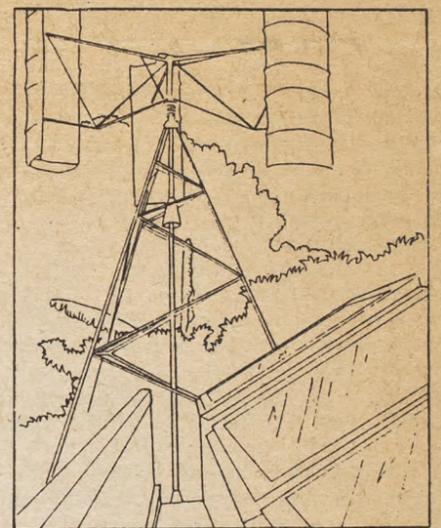
Part one in a series of three.

First we should define technology. Technology is the means employed by a people to provide itself with the objects of material culture. More simply, technology is how people produce the things they need and want. Technology can be a saw, lathe, windmill, or oilrig, or knowhow, experience, and education.

What is appropriate technology? Appropriate technologies are ways to produce what we need without harming the biosphere or depleting our resources. They are sensitive to human needs as well as to the health and integrity of the biosphere. More specifically, appropriate technologies:

- * Use renewable and recyclable resources.
- * Use locally available resources when possible.
- * Produce recyclable and biologically compatible products for local use and consumption.
- * Employ closed systems where necessary for the protection of the biosphere, and reclaim, reuse, and/or neutralize all waste and by-products (liquids, solids, gases, toxic and non-toxic).
- * Maximize the conservation of energy and material resources.
- * Are structurally compatible with their surroundings.
- * Minimize noise levels.
- * Are adapted to local social and cultural environments.
- * Meet rigid safety standards and are pleasant to work with. They are also easily repaired and maintained and will not cause serious inconvenience, or pose dangers to safety in the event of a malfunction.

Many of these defining criteria require a moral or value judgement. For example, what is structurally compatible, noisy or quiet, safe or dangerous?



The purpose of the Center is to demonstrate the application of appropriate technology on a small scale, and to help stimulate thinking in the direction of neighborhood and community scale systems capable of meeting the future water, energy, agricultural, and industrial needs of urban areas. 286-4301

What is your idea of pleasant working conditions, or why is it important to use renewable resources?

Appropriate technologies are products of caring — caring enough to read between the lines, caring enough to put our "short-term" vested interests behind us. For example, suppose the bugs in your garden are becoming a problem. You are well aware that "Bug-Off" insecticide is biologically harmful, but it sure kills those bugs in a hurry. What do you do? Do you decide to use the spray, or do you try to find a safe alternative?

In one sense it's misleading to say that we need to put our vested interests behind us. We actually need to get in touch with what our vested interests really are. Our health and well-being is directly connected to the health and well-being of the biosphere. If we harm the biosphere, we harm ourselves as well.

Calendar

March

- Mondays - Class on health effects of low-level radiation, 7:00 pm UCSD
- 4 Films: Who's Garden Was This? and The Great Bubble Conspiracy; also work party to make armbands and placards
- 8 Int'l Women's Day Celebration - Coalition of Labor Union Women, 297-1015
- 18 CEAN educational night, speaker; Val Catanzarite, M.D./Ph.D candidate UCSD
- 20 Cinematomics, 7:30 pm, SDSU
- 21 Same as 20th
- 22 Rally Against The Draft, call 283-6878
- 27 Cinematomics plus Don Widener, 7:30 pm, SDSU
- 28 Walk for a Nuclear-Free Future

April

- 1 CEAN educational night speaker; Mary Clark, "Nuclear Power: Risk/Benefit Analysis"
- 10 Cinematomics, 7:30 pm, SDSU
- 11 Same as 10th
* Special multi-image slide show on nuclear power and nuclear weapons, call 236-1684
- 15 CEAN educational night speaker: Jim Jacobson, "Native American Uranium Issues"
- 26 Mt. Taylor action for a non-nuclear world
- 29 Potluck dinner, information sharing, fun and games



Community Energy Action Network (CEAN) is people actively concerned about the world's energy future and the socio-economic implications of the various energy path options. We organize against nuclear power and in support of safe, cheap, locally controlled, job providing and renewable energy sources.

CEAN's goals for 1980 include the permanent shutdown of San Onofre Unit 1 and making nuclear power an issue in the 1980 election campaign.

Office at

3025 Fir Street
San Diego, CA 92102

Mail

P.O. Box 33686
San Diego, CA 92103

Office hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Mon. thru Fri.

Meetings:

Every Tuesday, 7:00 pm

2nd & 4th meetings are for business and decision making

1st & 3rd meetings are for education and committee activities

236-1684



An Appealing Idea

Historians will probably look back upon the 1980's as the most turbulent time in American history. A time when an organized citizen movement confronted the self-aggrandizing policies of the largest, most powerful economic institutions in the world - the energy corporations. A time when nuclear power was unmasked as a wholly inappropriate solution to the energy crisis. A time when our economy made the transition to a renewable energy system: the soft path.

The year 1980 has not begun on a hopeful note. Events in Iran and Afghanistan underscore the weakness of our political and economic system. A weakness defined not by missiles, tanks or gun boats; but a weakness of resolve to conquer the domestic problems that plague our country. Instead of acknowledging these problems, our leaders have opted for an easy way to reunite the country: reinstitution of the Cold War with blind jingoistic patriotism.

The roughly 25 million Americans living below the poverty level who can't afford to heat their homes, and the countless thousands unemployed young black people are just two examples of domestic problems that deserve our united attention.

The transition to solar energy offers some answers to these problems. It has been estimated, for example, that just 30% of what we spend for the military would create two to five million jobs if invested in solar energy manufacturing and public transportation development. A recent study by the Harvard Business School, *Energy Future*, concludes that a carefully constructed, energy efficient conservation movement could save the equivalent of all the oil we now are importing from OPEC. Beyond this, the Harvard study points to the challenging and practical applications of solar power to meet from one-fifth to one-fourth of our total energy requirements. Nuclear power cannot ever solve the energy crisis.

Community Energy Action Network has been working in San Diego for almost three years promoting the solar transition. Through public forums, debates, rallies, petition drives, a newsletter and appeals to our representatives in government, we have raised our voices against nuclear power and for solar and other types of "soft" energy.

Working with 90% volunteer help and very limited resources, we have accomplished much in the past. Our initial goal of stopping Sundesert has been achieved. Now we are busy with our new goals:

- * shutdown of San Onofre Unit 1
- * no operating license for San Onofre Units 2 and 3
- * make nuclear power an issue in the 1980 election campaign

To attain our goals we are launching a major drive to educate the public. We are using door-to-door canvassing, mass distributions of this newsletter, paid advertising as needed, teach-ins, rallies and other direct action strategies. These things cost money.

The utilities and the nuclear industry spend millions promoting their costly and dangerous energy source. Our grassroots movement has people and their resources. CEAN invites you to join us in working for a non-nuclear future. Please see the "Help Wanted" and "What You Can Do" sections on this page.

We also ask you to become a Sustaining Member of CEAN. Your pledge of just \$10 per month will make it possible for CEAN to maintain our modest office, pay our staff person, and meet our mounting printing costs for free literature and the CEAN newsletter. We will send you a reminder each month.

If you desire tax-deductibility, donations of \$50 or more can be sent to Agape Foundation, 944 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, ear-marked for CEAN.

With your help, and the help of like-minded people, the next generation can look back upon the 1980's as a period when the priceless values of a democratic society were restored and reborn. A secure society based upon a renewable energy system; a society built on peace and justice.

Request for Action

One of the main goals for CEAN in 1980 is to work toward the immediate and permanent shutdown of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit 1.

New and relevant information is now available on potential ground motions in the event of an earthquake at the site, and this information would have warranted the Atomic Energy Commission to have refused to grant a license on the original application. Unit 1 was originally designed to withstand ground acceleration of .2 g's. Due to stricter NRC regulations, Units 2 and 3 were built to withstand ground acceleration of .67 g's. Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric, the plant operators, have had to make substantial revisions in Unit 1, but still have only managed to upgrade the unit to theoretically withstand .5 g's. The utilities claim that because Unit 1 is only 480 MW (megawatts), it doesn't have to withstand as great of acceleration as Units 2 and 3 (which are 1100 MW each). It is the position of CEAN that the consequences of a meltdown are the same regardless of reactor capacity.

In addition, population growth near the San Onofre plant has been more rapid and extensive than could have been anticipated when the construction permit for Unit 1 was issued in 1964. Consequently, there are no adequate evacuation plans for the area's residents in the event of a loss of coolant accident. Approximately nine million people live in the area that could be affected by the accidental release of radioactive gases from Unit 1. The NRC is considering

recommendations from several studies to shutdown plants because of inadequate evacuation plans. It is CEAN's position that San Onofre should be one of these plants.

In response to these facts, and others such as storage and transportation of radioactive wastes and generic design deficiencies, CEAN is asking you to sign a *Request for Institution of Proceedings to Revoke Operating License* (available from CEAN). This is not a mere petition nor an abstract call on the government to curb nuclear power. This document will require the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to either institute the requested proceedings or to inform each requesting individual why no proceedings were instituted.

The regulations state that any person may file a Request. There are no restrictions like only registered voters or only people over a certain age. Therefore, CEAN urges everyone who can write their name to file a Request for Action. The only restriction is that you must live in the area affected by the plant, which means anyone who lives in Southern California. When the NRC schedules a hearing on this Request, CEAN will hold workshops in the event that you are called on to provide further information.

It was this proceeding which enabled Northern Californians to permanently close the Vallecitos nuclear plant.

Join the thousands who have already signed. Call CEAN today at 236-1684 for your copy of the Request for Action.



Never Again

Continued from page 1

to the local community and why the federal government, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Carter Administration must all be held responsible for the accident.

The walk is part of a nationally coordinated effort to call attention to the danger that continues to threaten the lives of the people in Middletown and Harrisburg. These actions are also in preparation for the April 26 "March for a Non-Nuclear World", which will be held in Washington, D.C. The demands of the April 26 Coalition are: stop nuclear power, zero nuclear weapons, safe energy, full employment and honor Native American treaties.

The Coalition is calling on the people in the western states to go to the demonstration at Mt. Taylor, New Mexico (near Albuquerque), which is being organized by a coalition of Native American, Chicano and Anglo organizations.

Mark your calendar right now for March 28, noon, downtown. There will be a party March 4, 8:00 pm at 3025 Fir Street to make armbands and signs. Join us!

NAME THIS NEWS LETTER

Deadline
April 1, 1980

CEAN announces its first contest ever. Here's your chance to be witty, creative and win a prize too! If your entry is chosen you will win a CEAN T-shirt in your choice of color, or a copy of Barry Commoner's *The Politics of Energy*.

Here's my contribution to Stop Nuclear Power \$ _____

I want to be a monthly contributor of \$ _____. Here is my first installment.

I want to help please contact me

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

address change Thank you

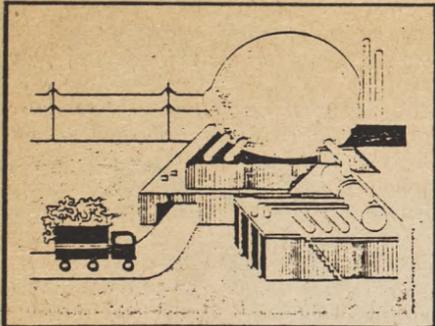
Myth

Continued from page 1

During the recent "gasoline crisis", 15 Exxon oil tankers carrying oil from Aruba were diverted to Europe, creating a shortage here. In December the *Wall Street Journal* quoted oil experts as predicting a glut on the world market in 1980 and the New York Mercantile Exchange was reporting a log jam of oil tankers waiting to unload at the port of New York. Challenging the "crisis" myth was a geophysicist for the World Bank, Bernardo Grossling, who estimates global reserves of petroleum to be 6,000 billion barrels, enough for 280 years at the current rate of consumption.

The fact is that the greatest danger to the American people is not dependence and vulnerability to attack or manipulation by foreign powers. The greatest danger is from the global corporations themselves. These corporations constitute an "invisible government", a power greater than nations and for years they have been promoting ever increasing consumption of oil from overseas wells. As a consequence we have become hooked on foreign oil, which now constitutes half of all the oil we use. This "invisible government", which includes parts of the media, the intelligence community and corporate representatives has no patience with constitutional and democratic processes and is willing to reinstitute the draft and bring us to the brink of nuclear war.

Due to the subservience of the Department of Energy and the White House to the oil industry, we are saddled with an inflexible and outmoded energy policy that assumes our right to *unlimited and unchallenged access to the world's resources no matter what the consequences*. This energy policy caters to the economic short-term needs of the corporations, with no opportunity for critical appraisal by the American people and with little regard for their health and welfare.



Recent events in Iran and Afghanistan are being blown out of proportion and are being blamed on U.S. "weakness" and "dependence". Jingoistic nationalism and sabre rattling are intended to obscure adventurist policies abroad and greater control of our lives at home. We are being offered a return to past policies of stepped up arms production and an energy plan that would destroy our land, our health and our pocket-books. Both of these policies have been on the back burner for some time and have very little to do with the events in the Middle East.

Soviet involvement in Afghanistan has served as a welcome chance to boost a lagging economy by pouring an additional *thousand billion* dollars into the weapons industry in the next decade. With 30,000 nuclear bombs in our arsenal and with four more produced *every day*, the chance of nuclear war is ever increasing. Every new weapon of mass destruction that we build leads to an inevitable escalation of the arms race, with the Russians compelled to respond in kind. The MX missile, our most recent addition, is a 95 ton monster carrying 10 MIRVs, each with an explosive power of 20 Hiroshima bombs. Two hundred of them are expected to shuttle among 4600 missile houses — spread across 25,000 square miles of Utah and Nevada. Following a recent Soviet offer to reduce their own military presence in Europe,

Join the Movement

Here's what you can do to help stop nuclear power:

Educate yourself (Anna Gyorgy's *No Nukes* is a good place to start)

Talk to your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers (have a housemeeting)

Write letters to elected officials, local newspapers

Attend CEAN educational night meetings

Donate money

Volunteer for a task (see "Help Wanted")

Get involved with a CEAN committee

Attend CEAN general meetings and participate in the consensus decision-making process

Become an activist

we responded by deploying 572 new, non-verifiable, first strike Pershing II and other missiles in Western Europe.

For every dollar spent on the military we can look forward to fewer jobs, more inflation, neglected social needs and a diminished sense of security. The U.S. military alone consumes 2.5% of the nation's available petroleum products and spends \$4 billion annually on fuel, which is double what they spent in 1973. At a time when 800 million people are starving worldwide, the projected U.S. military budget of \$250 billion for 1985 will drain resources from vital national and international programs, with the inevitable increase in poverty and unrest.

The events in Iran have brought about an accelerated drive for wasteful, hazardous domestic energy production in the name of self-sufficiency. Nuclear power, synthetic fuels, LNG, massive strip mining and other environmentally unsound energy sources are being promoted and subsidized in spite of ample evidence that there are safer, cheaper, job-creating alternatives available. *Seventeen billion* dollars of federal funds have kept a faltering nuclear industry afloat and now Pres. Carter proposes a subsidy of *\$88 billion* for synthetic fuel development! We are now beginning to pay for past mistakes and irresponsibility of various industries that have polluted and dumped toxic chemicals throughout

this country. The cost to us in federal programs to undo the damage and to control air and water pollution will be *\$360 billion* from 1977 to 1986.

Nuclear power is being promoted as a safe, clean, cheap and unlimited energy source. It has turned out to be the most expensive, dangerous technology ever devised, endangering not only ourselves but untold generations yet unborn. The nuclear power and weapons industry has accumulated 76 million gallons of high-level radioactive liquid waste, 180 million tons of radioactive mill tailings (mostly uncovered) and millions of tons of contaminated tools, equipment, clothing, etc. Permanent waste disposal remains in the experimental stage while temporary storage tanks leak, contaminating the surrounding water tables. Every step of the nuclear fuel cycle, from mining to decommissioning of obsolete radioactive plants, exposes people to possible radioactive contamination. And recent studies indicate that even very low levels of radiation can cause cancer, leukemia in children, genetic damage and premature aging.

The phony "crisis" has created a climate in which hard-won advances in curbing irresponsible corporate pollution and destruction of our land are being eroded. As a result of extensive lobbying by the energy industry, legislation is being pushed through Congress in violation of existing local and federal laws.

state 5 — the major transportation route connecting San Diego to the rest of California. The railroad tracks pass even closer than the highway.

* There are at least nine million people living within a 30-mile radius of the plant.

* An adequate evacuation plan is still on the drawing board; there are indications that there will never be one due to the densities of the population and the geographical limitations of the area.

* A 30-mile radius from the plant also includes the flora and fauna of the ocean — a major factor in the economy of the region.

What can you do to prevent a TMI-like accident from happening here? See page 4.

This issue was brought to you by the enthusiastic efforts of the following volunteers:

Keta Hodgson, Editor
Kris Limont
Tanja Winter
Jim Jacobson
Steve Buckley
Debi Russell

We welcome letters, articles, graphics and suggestions. CEAN, P.O. Box 33686, San Diego, CA 92103.

This legislation would free the industry from public scrutiny and accountability and would allow energy projects regardless of their effect on workers or the community.

Fortunately there are signs that saner, less wasteful, appropriate energy use can free us from dependence on militaristic solutions and corporate manipulation. *Energy Future*, a recent 6 year study by the Harvard Business School, indicates that our energy future need not be bleak.

One source of "new fuel" is the elimination of waste consumption. Energy efficiency could save the equivalent of *one million barrels of oil per day*, an amount comparable to 40 electric plants of 1,000 megawatts, each operating at 65% of capacity. It would reduce our energy needs by 40% — an amount equal to all the oil presently imported — while maintaining the same or a higher standard of living. An additional 20% could be supplied by solar sources.

We must begin to question and resist an energy policy that favors corporate over human needs and deprives us of our constitutional rights. By moving toward a "soft energy path" which includes conservation and decentralized renewable benign energy alternatives, we will begin to create a truly human community, restore our environment and recapture control over our lives.

Tanja Winter

Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to help CEAN with the following tasks:

MAILING LIST: update our ever-growing mailing list.

Place: our office

Commitment: 2-4 hours/week

INVENTORY: maintain current inventory of stock.

Place: our office

Commitment: 1-2 hours/week

CANVASSING: door-to-door, distribute literature, and gather signatures.

Place: San Diego County

Commitment: Saturdays 12-3 pm

NEWSLETTER CIRCULATORS: distribute this newsletter.

Place: San Diego County (your local neighborhood)

Commitment: 4 hours every 6 weeks

GRAPHICS: create graphics for our newsletter and occasional leaflets.

Place: optional

Commitment: on going, as required

PROOFREADER/COPY EDITOR: assist with preparation of the newsletter.

Place: our office

Commitment: 6-8 hours every 6 weeks

GRANT WRITER: generate grants for CEAN projects, could become a paid position.

Place: optional

Commitment: as required

TYPING: re-type our mailing list.

Place: our office

Commitment: must be completed in 6 weeks

TYPING: help with our newsletter.

Place: our office

Commitment: 10-12 hours every 6 weeks

TELEPHONING: help make calls to our membership.

Place: your home

Commitment: as needed

HOUSEMEETING HOST/ESS: invite a few friends or neighbors for a 90-minute presentation by a CEAN speaker.

Place: your home

Commitment: 2 hours at your convenience

One Year Later

Continued from page 1

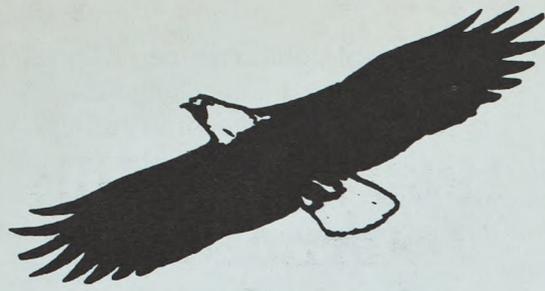
Feb. 12 Senator John Heinz (R-Pa.) reported that the leak caused the atmospheric release of Krypton 85, a radioactive gas. The day before plant officials and the federal government denied any leak into the air.

Feb. 13 Governor Richard Thornburgh of Pennsylvania said that TMI operators had again failed to inform the state government of the problems, and that he had to rely on rumors for information. A guard at the plant phoned a friend about the leak; this information was eventually relayed to the Director of Civil Defense. Not reporting such incidents is a violation of state law.

Feb. 14 Federal officials begin looking for ways to speed cleanup of TMI because of concern that the plant in its present state poses a safety risk.

And if it could happen at Three Mile Island, it could happen at San Onofre. If San Onofre were to experience an accident similar to the one at TMI consider the following:

* The plant sits *less than half the length of a football field* from Inter-



ment is threatened by more than 25 multinational corporations now prospecting for uranium, oil, natural gas, coal and iron ore on one million acres of land.

A National Sacrifice Area

"Perhaps the solution to the radon problem is to zone the land into uranium mining and milling districts so as to forbid human habitation."

—Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory Report, 1978

From the Grants Mineral Belt of New Mexico north to Montana, through Colorado and Wyoming and east to the Black Hills, a vast depository of minerals exists. James Schlesinger, former head of the Department of Energy, called this "America's energy ace-in-the-hole." It is this area, our home, which is slated to be "sacrificed" for uranium mining and milling—the most dangerous part of the nuclear fuel

cycle, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The cancer rate in Fall River County in the southern Hills is already 50 percent higher than the other South Dakota counties.

Furthermore, "A National Sacrifice Area" means that the development, which is totally dependent on the availability of water, can only last as long as the water—about 35 years. It is a "terminal" development because as it unfolds, water consumption will be so great that it will deplete and contaminate the aquifers that supply water to the entire region. Just one of the proposed Tennessee Valley Authority mines will remove 675 gallons of water every minute for ten years. The existing and planned coal gasification plants, coal-fired plants, nuclear reactors, high-voltage powerlines, stripmines and pipelines will be rendered useless. Severely polluted air and soil will be part of the wasteland legacy of energy development. The agricultural economy will be dead.

Considerable disturbance of the land and water has already occurred: wells have been contaminated and cattle have been killed as a result of the uranium ventures of Union Carbide, Kerr McGee and others, *throughout the U.S.*

Survival Is the Issue

The world economy is developing along monopoly lines. Most capital investment and media are controlled by a few multi-national corporations. 75 percent of all uranium reserves and 25 percent of all coal reserves in the U.S. are owned by a few oil companies. The policies and practices of these giant corporations affect our communities in many ways: from higher prices, lower wages and forced jurisdiction to non-existent or inadequate houses and heat, fewer jobs, deteriorating health and the ever-growing danger of nuclear holocaust. While "inflation" is blamed for an ever-decreasing standard of living in the United States, the oil companies have increasing record profits.

The Black Hills International Survival Gathering is a means of bringing people from local, national and international communities together to actively participate in planning and strategizing for survival of life beyond the 1980's.

For ten days in July 1980 people from many parts of the world will gather in the Black Hills to document and diagnose the threats to survival so that we may determine and practice the best methods of assuring a future for our children.

The Black Hills—the physical and spiritual center of North America—and the whole Northern Great Plains region is a target for elaborate and deadly energy exploitation. The issues making survival in the Black Hills a point in question are the same issues that face all of our communities.

An Oasis

The Black Hills are considered an "oasis" of the Great Plains: a natural haven of fresh water, lush vegetation, wildlife and clean air; the recharge area for most of the region's groundwater. The Paha Sapa, as the Hills are known to the Lakota People, are an ancient and sacred place, greatly revered. The life sustaining capability of this environ-

*reprinted and distributed as a public service by: Community Energy Action Network, P.O. Box 33686 San Diego, Ca. 92103

(714)
236-1684



We Need Your Help

In an effort to loosen the corporate grip on our lives, we have divided the International Survival Gathering into three simultaneous events and seven supporting work areas. Please familiarize yourself with these ten areas and indicate on the back of the enclosed orange pledge card which one you are committed to working on.

NO NUKES!

(over)

THREE SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS

I. A Citizens' Review Commission on Energy Development Corporations

Participants will present testimony and documentation on practices and policies that threaten the survival of our communities: local, national, and international. The information will form a base to plan effective means to neutralize corporate dangers and create life-sustaining alternatives.

II. An Alternative Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency Project

Participants will build a model self-sufficient community with working alternative energy projects that can be applied to the further decentralization of energy and improved quality of life. Corresponding workshops will explain each demonstration project and instruct on its design and construction, as well as its application in local communities.

III. A Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Ranch and Farm

Methods that have been used against people worldwide in order to dominate their resources will be analyzed and documented.

For hundreds of years Indians have had their life-giving resources destroyed and have faced displacement from their homelands and forced assimilation. The corporate value system continues to threaten them and family farmers and ranchers as well. In 1979 alone 40,000 U.S. family ranches and farms were eliminated.

With the knowledge gained through this forum we will work to save what remains of our various rural ways of life so that we may build a more fertile environment.

SEVEN SUPPORT WORK AREAS

1. National Coordinating Office
2. Security/Peace Keepers
3. Mobilization/Transportation

If you are interested in mobilizing local communities and setting up transportation centers, contact our office immediately.

4. Fundraising

The Gathering is limited only by our access to resources.

5. Education for Survival

People in alternative education will develop curricula around Gathering issues to be used in traditional and alternative education systems. They will also establish a program to involve younger people in the Gathering.

6. Health for Survival

Health workers will supply health and medical facilities and give participants information needed to reduce dependence on existing institutions and to practice alternatives.

7. Communications/Media



A TIME FOR ACTION

The Survival Gathering can contribute to the end of our feeling of helplessness and the beginning of building our destiny. We can utilize it as a means to advance all of our efforts, as we organize properly and use each of the work areas to supply the needs of the Gathering and an on-going network.

This is the time to make a solid commitment for a future. We don't want endorsement without action. We don't need rhetoric—we need solutions and dependable groups of people willing to work. *The future of the coming generations is at stake.*



"Whatever befalls the earth befalls the people of the earth. Humans did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves. . . tribe follows tribe and nation follows nation like the waves of the sea. It is the order of nature and regret is useless. Your time of decay may be distant, but it will surely come, for even the whites whose God walked and talked with them as friend to friend, can not be exempt from the common destiny. We may be family after all. We will see."

Chief Sealth (Seattle), 1855
translated

1980 Black Hills International Survival Gathering

July 18-27

in the Black Hills
of South Dakota



sponsored by

The Black Hills Alliance

P.O. Box 2508
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
(605) 342-5127

PLEASE
POST



1980

**BLACK HILLS INTERNATIONAL
SURVIVAL GATHERING**

July 18-27

in the Black Hills of South Dakota

★ A Citizens Review Commission on
Energy Development Corporations

★ Largest Rural Alternative Energy
Show Ever Assembled

★ Forum on Indian Genocide and
the Planned Extinction of the
Family Farm and Ranch

**Speakers, workshops and
displays on many topics:**

★ Safe Energy Systems

★ Health for Survival

★ Education for Survival

★ Corporate Land Grab
...and more.

No Drugs or Alcohol

Camping Available

—THE 1980 BLACK HILLS INTERNATIONAL SURVIVAL GATHERING—
Rapid City, SD 57709 P.O. Box 2508 605-342-5127

DISTRIBUTED BY
COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK
P.O. BOX 33686
SAN DIEGO, CA 92103
(714) 236-1684

URANIUM

THE TOP TWENTY DOMESTIC URANIUM RESERVE OWNERS

Company	Domestic Reserves (Thousands of lbs.)
1. Kerr-McGee	139,000
2. Gulf Oil (Gulf Minerals)	103,500
3. United Nuclear	103,400
4. Exxon (Exxon Nuclear)	100,000
5. Tennessee Valley Authority	61,650
6. Phelps Dodge (Western Nuclear)	59,900
7. Atlantic Richfield (Anaconda)	56,350
8. Mobil Oil	50,000
9. Continental Oil	46,080
10. General Electric (Pathfinder Mines)	35,920
11. Getty Oil	30,587
12. Union Oil (Minerals Exploration)	27,000
13. Pioneer Nuclear	26,501
14. Phillips Petroleum	25,000
15. Union Pacific & Mono Power (Rocky Mountain Energy)	22,600
16. International Minerals & Chemical	22,276
17. Westinghouse (Wyoming Minerals)	20,000
18. Union Carbide	20,000
19. Cleveland Cliffs Iron	20,000
20. Commonwealth Edison of Chicago (Cotter)	10-20,000

SOURCE: TVA, *The Structure of the Energy Markets*, 1979

DOMESTIC URANIUM RESERVES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1979

\$15/lb Tons U ³ O ₈	\$30/lb tons U ³ O ₈	\$50/lb Tons U ³ O ₈
290,000	690,000	920,000

Note: Reserves reported at \$15, \$30, and \$50 include reserves in all lower cost categories. U³O₈ is also known as "yellowcake."

SOURCE: DOE, *Statistical Data of the Uranium Industry*.

POTENTIAL DOMESTIC RESOURCE ESTIMATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1979

Tons U³O₈

Cost Category* Per Pound U ³ O ₈	Probable	Possible	Speculative
\$15	415,000	210,000	75,000
\$30	1,005,000	675,000	300,000
150	1,505,000	1,170,000	550,000

*Each cost category includes all lower cost potential resources.

SOURCE: DOE, *Statistical Data of Uranium Industry*.

THE TOP FIVE URANIUM PRODUCING COUNTRIES

Production Capability, Tons U³O₈

	1977	1980	1985
United States	16,100	26,900	39,500
Canada	7,930	10,400	16,300
South Africa	8,710	15,200	16,200
Niger	2,090	5,330	11,700
France	2,860	3,700	4,820

SOURCE: DOE, *Statistical Data of the Uranium Industry*.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE URANIUM INDUSTRY, 1978

Exploration	4,449
Mining	
Miners	5,192
Other	6,879
Milling	3,053
Total	19,573

Figures include operational, technical, supervisory and support personnel.

SOURCE: DOE, *Statistical Data of the Uranium Industry*, 1979.

LAND HELD FOR URANIUM EXPLORATION AND MINING AS OF JANUARY 1, 1979

(Thousands of acres)

State Claim	5,175
Acquired	19,495
Indian	271
Fee	785
Total	6,942
Total	32,668

SOURCE: DOE,

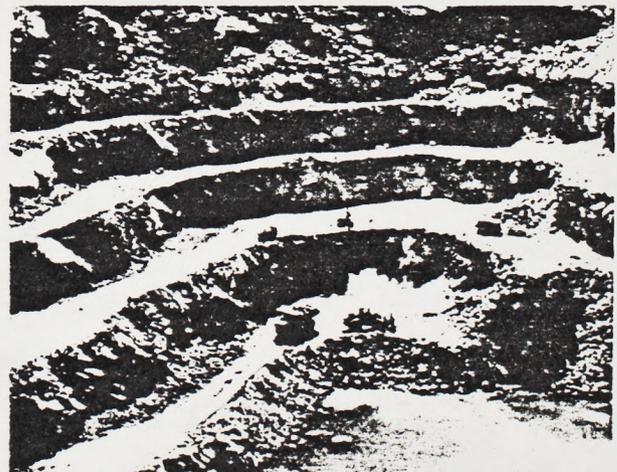
Statistical data of the Uranium Industry, 1979.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY OF COMPANIES CONTROLLING URANIUM MILL CAPACITY: 1977

Industry Group	% of mill capacity
Petroleum	42.6
Uranium	19.0
Minerals Exploration and Mining	15.6
Electrical Equipment	9.8
Chemicals	7.1
Electric Utilities	2.7
Other	3.1
Total	100.0*

*Detail does not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

SOURCE: FTC 79, *An Analysis of Competitive Structure in the Uranium Supply Industry*.



KEY URANIUM CONTACTS

This list includes just a few of the many groups actively opposing uranium development. Groups listed here can supply you with the names of additional contacts in your state or region. For reasons of space we could not include a complete description of each group's resources and activities, so write to them for publications lists and further information about their work.

American Indian Environmental Council
1503 Central N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87101

Organizing assistance for local groups planning rallies or other actions. Media contact, fundraising, transportation, legal assistance. Stresses multi-ethnic cooperation in opposing uranium development.

The group has been active in organizing against the uranium project planned for Mt. Taylor, in the Grants Mineral Belt of New Mexico.

Black Hills Alliance
P.O. Box 2508
Rapid City, SD 57701

Research on social impacts of uranium mining in farming and ranching communities. Answers requests for information, works with school system, and assists local groups with organizing. Library and speakers bureau; films and slides.

Black Hills Alliance testifies in interventions with the help of four attorneys. They have been involved in court cases against Union Carbide and Kerr McGee, who have initiated uranium exploration in the Black Hills allegedly without obtaining the required permits. Newsletter: *Black Hills Paha Sapa Report*, monthly, \$5.00 per year.

Colorado Open Space Council
Mining Workshop
2239 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80206

This group has been researching the impacts of coal, oil shale, and uranium mining in the West since 1971. Now moving into organization and intervention; especially concerned with impact of mining on water quality in Denver area. Has assisted Gunnison, CO residents in opposing Homestake Mining Co.'s Pitch Project.

COSC answers requests for information and is developing educational materials about uranium mining. Newsletter: *Mine Watch*, monthly, \$5.00 per year.

Community Information Research Group
105-2511 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5K 1Z2 Canada

Information clearinghouse and research service. Has library, data center, periodical collection; answers requests for information. Currently preparing presentation for Canadian "Bates Inquiry" on uranium mining; research focuses on structure of the uranium industry and political economy of resource development in British Columbia.

Newsletter: *The Energy File*, monthly, \$8.00 per year. Frequently covers uranium news.

Movement Against Uranium Mining
277 Brunswick Street
Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia

The national coordinating group for the Australian struggle against uranium mining. Works in close cooperation with the labor unions.

New Mexico People and Energy Research Project
810 Vassar, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Local organizing and educational outreach in Arizona and New Mexico. Research on social impacts of energy development in Chicano and Native American communities. Answers requests for information; small library. Photos of energy projects are available.

The group has produced a slide show entitled "People and Energy in the Southwest." The 140 color slides and accompanying script describe effects of uranium development on New Mexico's Navajo Nation. Sale \$125, rental \$25 per week.

Southwest Research and Information Center
P.O. Box 4524
Albuquerque, NM 87106

In-depth research on the environmental, economic and health impacts of uranium mining and milling. Intervenes and assists local groups with interventions. Provides technical, legal and organizational assistance to local groups.

The group has a large uranium library which is strong in the technical and legal aspects of uranium issues. Among the resources which they distribute are a uranium information packet (\$15.00) and a packet of clippings on the Church Rock dam spill. Slide shows are available to local groups.

Stop Uranium Mining, Inc.
c/o Malvine Cole
R.D. #1
Jamaica, VT 05343

This group is investigating and opposing the energy companies' plans to mine uranium in Vermont. They are working for a legislative ban on all uranium development in Vermont, and have collected 4,000 signatures so far on a petition to be submitted to the State Legislature. They plan to encourage local communities across the state to pass ordinances prohibiting uranium mining within their borders. Public education focuses on health and environmental affects of mining.

Uranium Information Network
c/o C.O.S.C.
2239 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80206

Educational outreach in Denver area on hazards of uranium mining and tailings piles. Slide presentations to local groups. UIN has produced a Uranium Mining and Milling Information Packet, which is available for a \$5.00 donation and covers nuclear economics, uranium mining and milling methods, the process of radioactive decay, and the environmental and health effects of uranium development.

Wyoming Outdoor Council
Box 1184
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Interventions and organizing; assistance to local groups. Wyoming Outdoor Council reviews almost all the siting applications for energy projects which come before the Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality under the state's Industrial Siting Act. They were involved in negotiations with Minerals Exploration (a Gulf subsidiary) over the Red Desert open pit mine. Interventions often focus on water quality impacts of mining. Newsletter: *Crossroads Monitor*. Membership and subscription, \$15.00 yearly for individual, \$25.00 for family. They published a special uranium issue last summer which is available for no charge.



URANIUM BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following bibliography covers just a fraction of the literature available on uranium, and is intended to provide a starting point for uranium research. Most of these publications include references and suggestions for further reading.

THE URANIUM INDUSTRY

- *Statistical Data of the Uranium Industry* GJO-100(79) January 1, 1979. U.S. Department of Energy, Grand Junction Office, Colorado.

Available from:

Technical Library
Bendix Field Engineering Corp.
P.O. Box 1569
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(303) 242-8621 ext. 278
Price: \$3.00

Current data on domestic reserves, potential resources and production, broken down by region, cost, and mining method. Information about land holdings and employment in the uranium industry. Published yearly. 115 pp.

- *An Analysis of Competitive Structure in the Uranium Supply Industry*. Staff Report, Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission. August 1979.

Available free from:

Public Reference Division
Room 130
Federal Trade Commission
Washington, D.C. 20580

A new report from FTC analyzing the structure of the domestic uranium industry: how the market works, vertical integration along the fuel cycle, levels of corporate concentration in mining and milling, and the role of the oil companies. 146 pp., 40 tables.

- *Nuclear Fuel Industry Data*. Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission. April 1978.

Available free from FTC (see above).

Some of the data is not current, but the report is worth obtaining for its company-specific charts and tables showing vertical integration and concentration in the uranium industry, mergers and acquisitions, etc. 82 pp., 53 tables.

- *The Structure of the Energy Markets: A Report of TVA's Antitrust Investigation of the Coal and Uranium Industries*. 1979 Update. Herbert S. Sanger, Jr. and William E. Mason. February 26, 1979.

Available from:

Herb Sanger, Jr.
Office of General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 Commerce Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37902
Price: \$10.00

This report, first published in 1977, was produced in connection with lawsuits which TVA filed against 13 uranium producers charging them with price-fixing as part of an international uranium cartel. The study examines concentration in the coal industry, in the uranium industry, and the overlap between the two. TVA attempts to show that big oil's predominance in both the coal and the uranium industries has had an anti-competitive effect on the overall energy market.

Periodicals

Mining trade journals are one of the very best sources of

information about the plans and activities of the mining giants. Unfortunately, most use either a prohibitively high subscription price or a restrictive policy to discourage non-industry subscribers.

- *Nuclear Fuel*. \$395 per year from McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.

Probably the best—and surely the most expensive—coverage of developments in the nuclear fuel industry. Biweekly.

- *Engineering & Mining Journal*. \$16 per year from Fulfillment Manager, E&MJ, P.O. Box 430, Hightstown, NJ 08520. Note: Subscriptions offered only to mining industry personnel.

This monthly magazine covers various metals and minerals and reports on worldwide mining industry news. Often features in-depth articles on specific mining projects. The November 1978 issue is devoted entirely to uranium and is worth tracking down.

- *Mining Journal* (weekly)
Mining Magazine (monthly)
Mining Annual Review (yearly)

Available as a subscription package, \$70.00 per year, from:

The Mining Journal Ltd.
15 Wilson St.
London, EC2M 2TR
England

Reports on worldwide mining news. The *Mining Annual Review* is a valuable source of information on mining companies' activities in all corners of the globe.

WORKER HEALTH

- *The Atomic Establishment*. H. Peter Metzger (Simon & Schuster, 1972).

Chapter 4, entitled "Radiation on the Job: The Uranium Miners," describes how the Atomic Energy Commission covered up uranium mining hazards and refused to impose safety standards during the 1950's and 60's, condemning many miners to radiation-induced cancer.

- *Health Dangers of the Nuclear Fuel Chain and Low-Level Ionizing Radiation*. A Bibliography/Literature Review. Environmental Health Committee, British Columbia Medical Association. May 1979.

Single copies free from:

Environmental Health Committee
B.C. Medical Association
1807 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2A9
(604) 736-5551
(limited quantity available)

The first and second chapters of this excellent bibliography contain 57 annotated references to the literature on health impacts of uranium mining and milling. The rest of the bibliography covers other types of radiation exposure.

- Lundin, R.E., Wagoner, J.K., and Archer, V.E. "Radon Daughter Exposure and Respiratory Cancer: Quantitative and Temporal Aspects." Report from the Epidemiological Study of United States Uranium Miners. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Joint Monograph #1, 1971.

This study establishes a firm causal link between airborne radiation in uranium mines and the high incidence of lung cancer among uranium miners.

- Archer, V.E., Gillan, J.D., and Wagoner, J.K. "Respiratory Disease Mortality Among Uranium Miners." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 271: 280-293, 1976.
- Archer, V.E., Wagoner, J.K., and Lundin, F.E. "Lung Cancer Among Uranium Miners in the U.S." *Health Physics*, 25: 351-371, 1973.
- Wagoner, J.K. et al. "Radiation As the Cause of Lung Cancer Among Uranium Miners." *New England Journal of Medicine*, 273: 181-188, 1965.
- Arell S. Schurgin and Thomas C. Hollacher, "Radiation-Induced Lung Cancers Among Uranium Miners." Thomas C. Hollacher and James J. MacKenzie, "Radiation Hazards Associated with Uranium Mill Operations." Both articles appear in *The Nuclear Fuel Cycle: A Survey of the Public Health, Environmental and National Security Effects of Nuclear Power*. Union of Concerned Scientists (MIT Press, revised edition 1975). Available for \$5.25 from UCS, 1208 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138.
- Tom Barry, "Bury My Lungs at Red Rock." *The Progressive*, February 1979, pp. 25-28. Describes impact of uranium development on the Navajo Nation, where many former uranium miners now have cancer.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Jack Miller, "Environmental and Health Effects" in *Uranium Mining and Milling Information Packet*. Available from: Uranium Information Network 2239 E. Colfax Denver, CO 80206 Price: \$5.00 A brief, readable piece on the environmental impact of uranium mining and tailings piles. Extensive references.
- *Water Quality Impacts of Uranium Mining and Milling Activities in the Grants Mineral Belt, New Mexico*. EPA 906/9-75-002. September 1975. Available from: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VI Dallas, TX 75201 This study details the radioactive and chemical contamination of ground waters in the nation's foremost uranium mining area.
- Townsend, Kathleen. "Ground and Surface Water in New Mexico: Are They Protected Against Uranium Mining and Milling?" *Natural Resources Journal*, Vol. 18 (October 1978) Describes weaknesses in federal and state regulation of the uranium industry in New Mexico.
- "In Situ Uranium Mining: An Analysis of the Technology, Its Environmental Impacts and Regulation." David E. Broadwater, February 1979. Oak Tree Alliance, 6604 Portola Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422 Available from NIRS, \$4.00 This well-researched work attempts to define the questions and uncertainties which surround the relatively new technology of in-situ uranium mining.
- "Environmental Aspects of In Situ Solution Mining of Uranium Ore." *Transactions of the American Nuclear Society*, 1978

Winter Meeting (Volume 30).

Papers from industry and government representatives.

- "Statement of Reasons for Appeal of the Forest Service's Approval of the Homestake Uranium Mining Company's Pitch Project." National Wildlife Federation - Natural Resource Clinic University of Colorado School of Law Boulder, CO 80309 (303) 492-6552 Available through NIRS Distribution Service, \$2.00. Contends that the Final Environmental Statement for the Pitch Project does not adequately consider the project's impacts on land use, water and air quality, or its socioeconomic impacts.
- *Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Uranium Milling* NUREG-0511. Office of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, April 1979. Single copies free from: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555. Attention: Director, Division of Technical Information and Document Control

The GEIS on which the proposed regulations for licensing uranium mills are based. The two volumes cover environmental, economic, and social impacts of uranium milling and alternative tailings disposal schemes. Appendices include calculations of radiological emissions and groundwater contamination from uranium milling and tailings disposal.

- Federal Register Vol. 44, No. 166, Friday, August 24, 1979, pp. 50012-50025. "Criteria Relating to Uranium Mill Tailings and Constructions of Major Plants" (Proposed Rules). "Uranium Mill Tailings Licensing" (Final Regulations with request for comments). These regulations have been proposed to implement the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. They would establish immediate NRC jurisdiction over uranium tailings at all mill sites, and impose technical requirements for tailings management and disposal.
- David Dinsmore Comey, "The Legacy of Uranium Tailings." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Sept. 1975, pp. 43-45.
- Luther J. Carter, "Uranium Mill Tailings: Congress Addresses a Long-Neglected Problem." *Science*, Vol. 202 (October 13, 1978) pp. 191-195.

INTERNATIONAL

- Joseph Camilleri, "Nuclear Controversy in Australia: The Uranium Campaign." *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, April 1979, pp. 40-44. Gives the political background to the struggle over uranium mining in Australia. The author, an Australian university professor, is among the founders of the Movement Against Uranium Mining.
- *New Internationalist* #77, July 1979. Special issue looks at impact of mining on Australia's Aborigines.
- Robert Paehlke, "Canada: Expanding Nuclear Fuel Exports." *Environment*, January/February 1978. Discusses Canada's impending uranium boom.

Radiation May Imperil Water in Southland

Radiation from the worst nuclear waste spill in U.S. history may be making its way toward the Colorado River, a major source of drinking water for Southern California, according to Dr. Joerg Winterer, a public health doctor in Gallup, New Mexico.

At least 95 million gallons of contaminated water and 1,100 tons of radioactive debris burst through a dam in Church Rock, N.M., on July 16 and flowed down the Puerco River forty miles into Arizona. The Puerco River flows into the Little Colorado River, which joins the Colorado River.

Radiation at the spill site went as high as 128,000 picocuries per liter, according to Jerry Klug of EPA's San Francisco office. The standard for safe drinking water is 16 picocuries per liter, says the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Puerco River is normally dry most of the year, but Dr. Winterer says that uranium mining operations are pumping water from the mines into the riverbed, thus assuring a continuous flow at least into Arizona, where the water often goes down into underground water sources.

Winter rains and flashfloods—as well as annual spring waterflows—are expected to wash much of the radioactive debris down into the Colorado River, from which water is pumped to 150 Southland cities by the Metropolitan Water District.

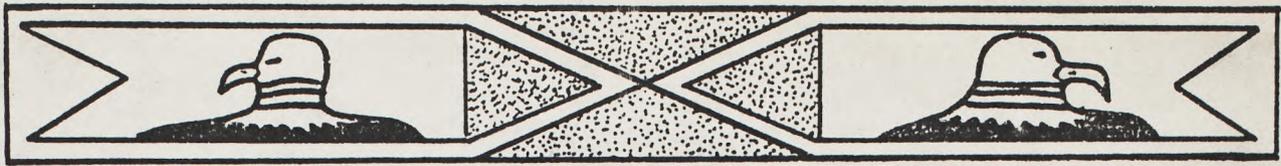
But Paul Singer, an MWD spokesman, says the waste—greatly diluted in transit—will be harmless.

—GB

"Survival"

Nov-Dec. 1979

So. Calif. Alliance For Survival



INDIAN URANIUM ISSUES

Because over 55 per cent of the nation's uranium supply is contained on Indian lands (Navajo, Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute, Spokane, Sioux aboriginal lands, Chippewa, and Canadian Indian lands) they are the first to be poisoned. Three-quarters of a million acres of Indian land in New Mexico have been leased for exploration and development. The world's largest stripmine is on the Laguna Pueblo and the country's largest mill is located in the Amborsia Lake area adjacent to eastern Navajo.

The poison begins with exploration. Locating a mine site involves drilling up to 500 holes in a certain area, uprooting trees and plants, destroying grazing areas, trespassing home sites, intruding strangers, and the irreversible contamination of the surface and underground water supply. Uranium ore is contained within water bearing formations but the liquid is not classified as "water" because it is not "regulated, of any beneficial use, or navigable." Physically it is water but legally it is not! Water is not a renewable resource.

Mining intensifies the destruction and it is compounded by blasting, 25-ton trucks hauling the ore through or near small villages often traveling 70 mph, dust, noise, more strangers, and more contamination of the water.

Most of the miners are Indian or Chicano (no experience required) who work under conditions with little or no safety standards. Many high school students are dropping out of school to work in the mines. And it is the Indian and Chicano workers who suffer the most from accidents although breathing in radioactive dust and radon gas is not considered an "accident." However, to alleviate the concentration of dust and gas in the mines, ventilator shafts have been installed in some mines but the vents emerge near homes, grazing areas, near a children's playground, and near water - emitting radon gas into the atmosphere.

Once dug, the uranium ore is milled into yellowcake by a process of crushing and treating with chemicals. For every pound of yellowcake produced, up to a 1,000 pounds of waste ore (tailings) results. It is a sludge-like liquid that is dumped alongside the mills and it is 85 per cent radioactive. Unless the tailings are covered with large amounts of earth, it will emit radon gas up to 100,000 years and is subject to the rain and wind. To date, no tailings pile has been properly covered - not the 10 million tons on the Navajo Reservation, the 17 million tons near Grants, nor the millions of tons on the Laguna Pueblo.

Uranium mining has disasterously affected the Navajo people since it began in the 1950s and the Atomic Energy Commission had refused to admit such danger at first. Finally a doctor wrote that lung cancer (or the risk of) had increased by a factor of eighty five among the Navajo miners. Twenty five Navajo miners have died of radiation-induced lung cancer and 20 more are suffering from lung cancer. That is known but what isn't known is how many who may have died from obvious causes, such as accidents, also had contracted lung cancer.

The Gulf Oil Company is sinking two of the world's deepest uranium mine shafts into the side of Mount Taylor and Gulf said that "Our concern is how we can do it at the lowest possible cost." Mount Taylor is one of the four sacred mounts of the Navajo and it has religious significance to nearby Pueblos. Even Gulf Oil admitted that the Navajos "consider it the southern boundary of their universe." Gulf Oil plans to sink the shafts over a half mile deep (3500 feet) where they worry about the heat and water because at that level "the temperature will approximate 125 degrees" and the "water will flow into the mine at rates as great as 6,000 gallons a minute."



Native Nations And The Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Uranium is crucial to the nuclear fuel cycle. Uranium is the raw material which is processed to produce the energy for nuclear power plants. Over two-thirds of the uranium reserves in this country are on Indian lands. Indian lands supplied 100% of the uranium produced in the United States in 1974. Looking at total Native reserves as one nation, they rank sixth in the world. We are the "source" of the nuclear fuel cycle, but not by our choice.

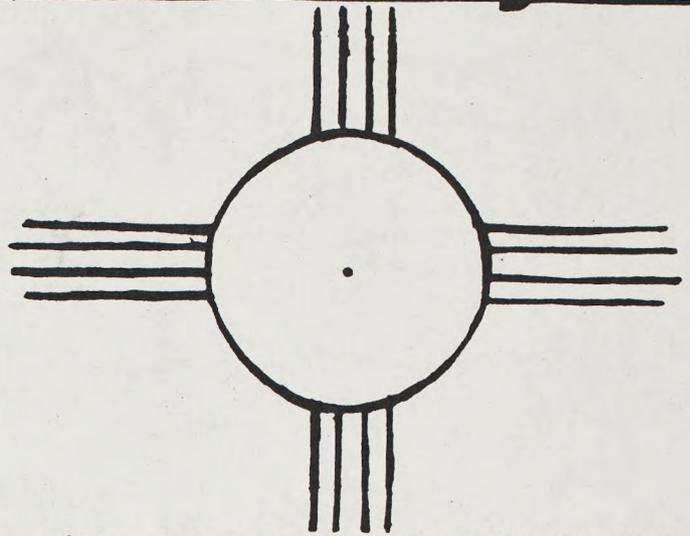
Now, because energy corporations such as Kerr-McGee, Anaconda (a division of Atlantic Richfield), General Electric, and EXXON to name a few, want that uranium for nuclear power plants, Indian people are in the process of being recolonized for energy development. Indian peoples have seen enough of Western economic expansion. We now live in poverty in our homelands ("reservations" as the Bureau of Indian Affairs terms them). Our lands encompass less than 1% of our original landbase. In 1977, approximately 90% of all Indian people living on "reservations" suffer from one form or another of malnutrition. The life expectancy for Native people is 47 years, in comparison to 70 years for the general population.

Indian people do not want to be colonized by the "energy corporations or the U.S. Departments of Energy and Interior. Indian people demand a right of self-determination, but are subjected to severe repression by three stages of the nuclear fuel cycle. The three stages of the nuclear fuel cycle which affect Indian peoples are 1) the mining, 2) the milling and processing of uranium, and 3) the disposal of radioactive wastes.

The Navajo and Spokane nations are the major suppliers of Indian uranium. The Navajo Nation is located in the "four corners" area of the United States, and the Spokane Nation is located in the State of Washington. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approves leases for uranium mining on these lands. The people who live in the leased area are frequently not told of the future use of the land. Many people end up working for the uranium producing corporation.

In 1975, 3,400 underground miners and 900 stripminers were employed by the uranium industry in the Navajo Nation. At Laguna Pueblo, one out of every five people works in the uranium mines, in the Spokane Nation, one out of every four people in the labor force has worked the uranium mine at sometime in his life. Needless to say, it only takes a few days of low-level radiation to kill a uranium miner.

In 1975, it was learned that of the 100 Navajo miners who worked the mesa mine, 18 were already dead of lung cancer and radiation induced illnesses. Twenty-one others were being watched closely, and doctors feared



that many more would die. Those Navajo uranium miners were paid about \$1.60 per hour to mine uranium, and most of them will end up with radiation induced lung cancer. That, my friends, is colonization.

The second stage of the nuclear fuel cycle which affects Native people is the processing of nuclear fuels. In Grants, New Mexico, a predominantly Indian area, there are three uranium milling plants. The plants are operated by Anaconda, United Nuclear Homestake Partners, and Kerr McGee. As a "uranium boom town," much of the labor force is employed by the uranium milling companies. At the uranium plants, workers are subjected to high dosages of radiation, while earning meager wages.

The final stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, or the "back end," is the disposal of radioactive wastes. EXXON (Standard Oil of New Jersey), has a 400,000 acre lease in the Navajo Nation. The lease was approved by the Secretary of the Interior after he waived 13 regulations. EXXON proposes to dispose of radioactive wastes in the leased area. The wastes could easily leak into the water tables and contaminate the drinking, agricultural and livestock water of the Navajo people.

Indian people do not use or benefit from the nuclear power plants. Indians are only exploited by the nuclear industry. Indian people are paid pennies per pound of uranium, and their homelands are slated for use as nuclear waste disposal sites. Most Native people (there is a very small number of exceptions to this,) do not want to be recolonized for the profits of energy companies at the cost of their lives and the lives of the American people as well. Native people demand a right to self-determination, a right to a radiation-free future for their children.



NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS AND THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

The Carter Administration, with the Department of Energy, has forwarded goals for increasing coal and nuclear development for energy needs. The population most significantly and immediately affected by the mining and processing of these resources is the Native American nation. On the 4% of the native land base that remains lies some two-thirds of all "domestic" uranium and one-third of all Western coal reserves -- the object of corporate and government goals.

Now that the "Indian wars" are over, the people are supposedly "pacified" enough that the companies and government can exploit these remaining resources for the "benefit" of the U.S. Indian people live in poverty on the reservations -- malnutrition is at 85%, infant mortality and death rates are high, unemployment is at 50%, and the per capita income on the reservations is approximately one-fourth the national average. These facts are important in understanding both the history and current situation of Native Americans as victims of colonial government-induced poverty.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, oil and mining companies began to control vast areas of resource-rich Indian land with the assistance of the federal government. Oil companies expropriated the resources of those tribes who had been relocated to Oklahoma Indian Territory and garnered capital to found other enterprises. In a similar way, through the abrogation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the Homestake Mining Company (founded by George Hearst) expropriated the resources of the Lakota (Sioux) nation and started the Homestake gold mine in Lead, South Dakota. Hearst's claim of \$10,000 was worth \$10 million fifteen years later.

As the government and missionaries colonized the native people, the U.S. and Canadian governments began to exercise more illegal power over them. Through this power, the federal government established governments on the reservations called "Tribal Councils," who were to be the representatives of the native people. One example of this power is in the Navajo nation. In 1923, Standard Oil discovered a vast oil field on the Navajo reservation and went to the Bureau of Indian Affairs requesting access to the land. The BIA went to the Navajo reservation and found five men who would sign a lease for the company -- these men became the Navajo Tribal Council.

During the 1900's, as Americans gained a high standard of living, adequate and super-adequate facilities, and technology, the native people have remained poor. The government exercises "trust control" over much of the remaining reservation land, which means that the Indian people "trust" the government to act for their long- and short-term benefit -- this is to be accomplished by the BIA.

The BIA (under the Department of Interior) sees the "development" of Indian energy resources as being to the benefit of Indian nations. This generation, that means coal and uranium. Four of the ten largest coal mines in the United States are on native land, as is the largest coal-fired power plant (Four Corners). Uranium is the same story -- in 1974, 100% of all federally-controlled uranium produced came from Indian lands. The largest uranium strip mine in the world is on Indian land -- Anaconda's Jackpile mine at Laguna Pueblo.

This situation started with the beginning of the Atomic Age. In 1949, Kerr-McGee began uranium mining and milling operations in the Red Rock Cover chapter of the Navajo reservation. The BIA negotiated a lease "for as long as the ore is producing in payable quantities," and that was how long Kerr-McGee stayed -- until 1969. In 1965, two of the uranium miners died of lung cancer -- small-cell carcinoma -- and by 1974, 18 had died. In 1979, 25 have died and 45 more have lung cancer. According to doctors at the Shiprock Indian Hospital, 70 of the original 100 Navajo uranium miners will die. Kerr-McGee's uranium mill was also abandoned with its accompanying 71 acres of uranium mill tailings. The Department of Energy now estimates that those living near the piles have a 100% greater risk of contracting lung cancer than the general population.

Handwritten notes:
The
with
the
BIA
has
been
the
BIA

(4)

Neither the miners' widows, the remaining miners or any other related people have received any compensation for the venture. The Navajo tribe does not have the money; the federal government denies responsibility; and Kerr-McGee spokesman Bill Phillips told a Washington reporter, "I couldn't tell you what happened at some small uranium mines on an Indian reservation, we have uranium interests all over the world." In the meantime, Navajo children wade in the water from the abandoned mines, only to break out in sores.

The situation is now becoming a reality on other reservations. In the Southwest, the BIA now predicts 100 uranium mines and 10 uranium mills by the year 2000. Kerr-McGee now operates a Uranium Miner Training Program (with \$2 million from the Labor Department), which should turn out 100 Navajo miners annually. The company's operations at Churchrock produce uranium for the largest uranium mill in the U.S.

The people continue to be poor, and the government continues to advise the Nations that uranium and coal production are to their benefit. At Laguna Pueblo, one out of every five people on the labor force are employed at Anaconda's mine. At Spokane, in Washington state, one out of four is employed at the mine. With unemployment so high on the reservations, the people have little option but to work in the mines. The native people receive wages and "royalties" for their resources. Royalties, or payments per ton or pound of the resource, are negotiated by the BIA. These contracts are the lowest-priced and poorest contracts negotiated between third world countries and multinational corporations. In 1975, Indians received 15¢ per ton of coal mined on Indian land (valued at \$20 per ton) and 60¢ per pound of Indian uranium -- valued at \$30 per pound. The money between the landowners' 2% and the price of the mineral goes to the companies.

On June 26, 1975, FBI ground forces attacked a traditional camp at Oglala in the Sioux nation. The attack resulted in the deaths of Joe Stuntz, a member of the American Indian Movement, and two FBI agents. The year coincided with the BIA study of mineral resources on the Pine Ridge reservation. The day coincided with the secret transfer of one-eighth of the reservation, containing a large deposit of uranium, from the tribe to the U.S. government. Leonard Peltier, who was convicted of killing the FBI agents, Russell Means, Bob Robideau, Herb Powless, and many others remain prisoners (victims) of America's energy crisis.

Uranium exploration, mining and milling are now planned and underway on Lakota (Sioux), Ojibwa (Anishnabe), Spokane, Navajo, Pueblo, Shoshone, and other Indian nations. Coal is mined on Navajo, Hopi, and Crow lands, with Lakota and Blackfoot lands slated for massive exploitation - mining, coal gasification and power plants. Coal and uranium lie in the same geological formations so, although Western strippable coal may be "low sulphur," it still contains uranium, cesium, thorium, strontium, and other "byproducts." Uranium is just another resource - more radioactive and harmful than the rest.

In 1979, an area the size of Ohio is leased out for uranium development, and much of this is on Indian lands. Kerr-McGee controls some 33% of the uranium reserves; Gulf Oil follows with 19%; United Nuclear-Homestake Partners (from Lead, S.D.) control 10%. Other companies involved include Conoco, Phelps Dodge, Getty Oil, Exxon, General Electric, ARCO (Anaconda), Phillips Petroleum, Rio Algom (Canada), Sohio, Union Carbide, and Socal. In total, oil companies control 74.5% of all "domestic uranium resources." Coal is the same story. 1979 is the same as 1879 for Indian nations. The only difference is that, with only 4% of the land remaining, we have everything to lose.

BLACK HILLS ALLIANCE - WOMEN OF ALL RED NATIONS
PO 2508, Rapid City, S.D. 57709