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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose this project for the following reasons:

Drilling activities would be seen and heard throughout the area, These would include noise, traffic, and visual impacts which would disturb ceremony, study, wildlife, recreation, and historical sites.

Uranium exploration drives off wildlife and can cause radioactive and toxic contamination of water and land.

The company plans to drill directly into an aquifer and may drill 24 hours a day, creating noise, lights, and traffic.

The company wants to put drilling wastes - which could be radioactive and toxic - into 17 unlined pits.

The October Jinx project would also include pumping 130,000 gallons of water into a four-foot-deep, unlined 50' x 50' discharge pit.

Pumping activities would also move water between drill holes to test the aquifer. This could push contamination from one part of the aquifer to another.

Heavy water trucks and drilling equipment would be transported off roads, creating 1.3 miles of what the company calls "overland travel."

The area is dry and slow to recover from drilling and heavy equipment operation, making true reclamation difficult to impossible. Disturbance from drilling in the 1950s - 1970s is clearly visible in the area.

The company says that the October Jinx Project would take 2 months. The Forest Service's recent paperwork says that it would authorize the project for 1 year. But the company's application (Plan of Operations) says that the project would be approved until December 15, 2029.

The company's application does not mention that world-class cultural and archeological resources would be impacted. In fact, it does not mention them at all.

Because of the extraordinary circumstances, the Forest Service should do a full Environmental Impact Statement for the October Jinx Project, not just let it go ahead as the government has proposed.