Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2026 2:15:22 AM
First name: Beverly
Last name: Maxwell
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear USFS,
I strongly oppose the proposed Roca Honda underground uranium mining project by Energy Fuels Resources. The project threatens regional water, community health, and cultural sites.
The mine will use millions of gallons of water and risks permanent contamination of vital underground aquifers that feed regional drinking supplies. It will create threats to our precious and sacred water resources. Discharging mine-affected water risks contaminating local groundwater and hydrological systems.
Contamination could lead to increased health problem for New Mexico residents, including various cancers, kidney disease, and reproductive problems.
The project encroaches on the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property, and will create cultural impacts to local Indigenous nations, and the brief 30-day scoping period hinders proper Tribal Consultation.
The timeline is inappropriate for the public to fully understand and engage in the process. The public needs at least 120 days to outreach and hear from rural community members and all New Mexico residents, especially those without quick access to online resources and those who need translation. Additionally, a longer comment period is needed for proper scientific review.
New Mexico already has a legacy of contamination and an extensive history of abandoned uranium mines, which underscore the dangers of approving new long-term mining operations. We need to clean up and not allow new mining.
I urge the Forest Service to extend the comment period and to reject the Plan of Operations to safeguard Mount Taylor, our precious water, and the Cibola National Forest.
Sincerely,
Beverly Maxwell
Shiprock, New Mexico