

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2026 2:30:50 AM

First name: Ennedith

Last name: Lopez

Organization: Los Jardines Institute

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

On behalf of Los Jardines Institute, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Roca Honda underground uranium mining project by Energy Fuels Resources. This project will result in a cumulative impact on the regional land, air and water, adverse impact on the community health, threaten intergenerational cultural well-being, and threaten access to the ancestral sacred sites of the impacted communities and tribes.

USFS must hold itself accountable to protecting the water, land, and air of frontline communities who already bear a brunt of the toxic legacy of uranium mining. Communities in Laguna Pueblo, Red Rock River Pond, and Dowindlers to the Trinity Test already know the life-threatening consequences of uranium extraction. Contamination will add on to the health problems experienced by New Mexican residents such as intergenerational cancers, kidney disease, reproductive problems, weakened eye sight, and the list goes on.

In addition, further extraction is not an environmentally sound choice. Further uranium extraction will only continue a legacy of toxic waste aiding to an accumulation of threats of contaminating local groundwater and hydrological systems. At the moment farmers do not have a reliable source of water due to climate change and our prolonged extreme drought. This threatens the livelihood of our communities and our sacred water resources.

We urge USFS to complete its due diligence and expand operations to properly consult with communities to a minimum of 120 days. This includes intentional outreach to rural community members, all New Mexican residents, and ensuring the process includes in person engagement for those who do not have internet access, and resources allocated for translation. Given this project touches on the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property, a 30-day scoping period is insufficient in guaranteeing Free, Informed, and Prior Consent.

New Mexico's heavy legacy of contamination, abandoned uranium mines, and extraction have already left an intergenerational impact that remains unaddressed. Communities need clean up, remediation, and reparations not new long-term mining operations.

We 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,

Los Jardines Institute