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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Daniel Francis DeMaggio. Thank you for reading my comment.

I'm a citizen of the United States. I've lived as a resident of New Mexico since October 2019. I'm writing to oppose the expansion of mining near Mt. Taylor and the Cibola National Forest.

The next 20 years will show immense changes in health and safety of our civilization. We can be protecting this natural jewel and setting a standard for which other states can forge sustainable environments. There are better green energy devices with much less health risk. Mining uranium creates factors which never cease to cause worry and potential catastrophe. Unreclaimed mines continue to blow toxic dust into communities and contaminate New Mexico's ever-reducing water supply, causing elevated rates of cancer and kidney disease. I grew up in the burbs north of Detroit, Michigan. Nuclear destruction was a real threat once in South Eastern Michigan too. Industrial experiments playing with poison, gradually turn nihilistic and dangerous. I also lived near the Detroit trash incinerator and witnessed its closure from surrounding neighborhoods. While I was a child, people denied that the incinerator was causing chronic respiratory diseases. When I was older, there were so many international people living in the city, a lot of understanding came about and the extreme poison and foul smell from the Detroit incinerator were stopped- no longer up for debate. People value safe healthy air, and it becomes its own profound value in society. Plus it feels good, it feels good not worrying about anonymized contractors slacking on standards gradually across 20 years of operations, employee turn-over, and inevitable mishaps. I oppose the heavy truck traffic that will haul radioactive ore across local highways - sometimes daily, increasing dust and transporting those risks to nearby towns and cities. Dust moves around, and invisible factors already haunt us here in New Mexico. We have legacy waste that is sitting in fire risk areas of the state. It doesn't have to be like this. We don't have to perpetuate fear and nuclear annihilation to deal with the rest of the world.

Our lands can have a great many nondestructive uses for our population. Protecting air, soil and water are key struggles in any state. I think it is a really risky decision to give any company two decades of freedom for experimenting in extraction and pollution mitigation. Unreclaimed mines continue to blow toxic dust into communities and contaminate New Mexico's precious water, causing elevated rates of cancer and kidney disease. We cannot afford to add more shoddy corporate mines to this toxic legacy. I don't mean to be disrespectful to anyone reading this; pack the legacy waste into WIPP and stop. Seek sustained and mutual peace with other nations as the ultimate deterrent.

I urge the Forest Service to extend the comment period and to reject the Plan of Operations for any expansion of uranium mining. I thank you for hearing my thoughts.