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**Navajo Community Association Files Report with UN Humans Rights Committee**

***Cites pattern of disparate impacts on uranium-impacted minority and indigenous communities***

SANTA FE – The Red Water Pond Road Community Association, filed a report with the Human Rights Committee charging the United States with violating the human rights of minority and indigenous communities affected by decades of uranium mining and milling. According to the report, written by the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, the United States is in violation of several Articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

From the report:

“The United States' historic and current practice in remediating radioactive and toxic waste in minority communities generally, and indigenous communities specifically, reveals a pattern of disparate impacts on minority and indigenous communities resulting in abrogation of the rights to life, family, exercise of culture, and freedom from discrimination.”

The U.S. is up for review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in March 2019. This means that the United Nations Human Rights Committee will review the U.S.' human rights compliance under the ICCPR for the last five years. Prior to the review, the Human Rights Committee solicits input from civil society.

The report focuses on two specific violations. First, the United States has a pattern of remediating uranium mining and processing waste in minority – and especially indigenous – communities much more slowly and much less rigorously than in non-minority communities. This exposes minority and indigenous communities to life-threatening radioactive and toxic contaminants much longer and in higher concentrations than their non-minority counterparts, causing not only physical impacts, but also psychological and cultural impacts.

Second, when community relocation may be a reasonable solution to environmental contamination, the United States does not consider culturally appropriate criteria. This forces indigenous communities to choose between remaining in highly polluted places with critically important cultural ties to their land and families or moving to a location that is not polluted but has no cultural significance or that fractures traditional family units and relationships.

The Red Water Pond Road Community is a Navajo (Diné) community located near Churchrock, New Mexico, in the Coyote Chapter of the Navajo Nation. The community lives among three Superfund sites: the United Nuclear Corporation (UNC/General Electric) Northeast Churchrock Mine, the Kerr McGee Quivira Mine and the UNC/GE Churchrock Mill. The Northeast Churchrock Mine is the largest non-operative mine site on the Navajo Nation.

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For more information and a link to the report, visit the [Red Water Pond Road page](https://nmelc.org/our-work/cases/red-water-pond/) on the NMELC web site.