

McKinley County Commission

Purpose for a Blue Ribbon Uranium Task Force

Presenters:

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The McKinley County Blue Ribbon Uranium Task Force

Purpose

The McKinley County Blue Ribbon Uranium Task Force will gather data on the impacts of historic uranium production and proposed uranium activities that has affected McKinley County communities' health, groundwater, watersheds, and economy. The Task Force will also conduct public hearings whereby citizens of the county will have an opportunity to provide their personal stories. Their personal stories and the data gathered will be interwoven to create a report with policy recommendations to the McKinley County Commission.

Our Allies

- Conservation Voters New Mexico Education Fund
 - Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
 - New Mexico Environmental Law Center
- McKinley Community Health Alliance Network
 - Red Water Pond Community Association
- New Mexico Social Justice and Equity Institute

Uranium Development-what we know...

- Historic uranium development, both mining and milling, has caused significant damage - largely irreparable - to McKinley County's natural resources, including water, air and soil.
- Contemporary uranium development has a poor record of preventing and cleaning up radioactive and toxic contamination.
- Exposure to radioactive and toxic materials associated with uranium mines and mills has caused significant adverse public health impacts, including various cancers and kidney disease.
- Emerging research is demonstrating that living in proximity to unremediated and inadequately remediated uranium mines and mills is associated with a significantly increased risk of cancer, kidney disease, heart disease, hypertension, autoimmune disorders and birth defects.

...And what we need to find out, or, why we need a Task Force

- What are the economic costs of natural resource and public health impacts of historic uranium development?
- What are the economic costs and benefits - if any - from proposed uranium development?
- Does McKinley County have sufficient infrastructure to accommodate increased industrial development associated with uranium development?
- Does McKinley County have adequate plans and capacity to respond to a major radioactive accident?
- Exactly how much groundwater, surface water, and soil has been contaminated by uranium development in McKinley Co.? How much water, if any, could be rehabilitated for beneficial use? How much would that cost?

Healthy Workforce = Healthy Economy

A timeline for the McKinley Uranium Working Group and the Future

- Past 4 year timeline to today attached
- 6 individuals have accepted to serve on the task force
- 3 year commitment
- Data Gathering
- Looking at the health of the community and job opportunities
- Health and environmental consequences

Thank you

A special thanks to Commissioner Bill Lee for working and meeting with us previously. We look forward to having an official group to collect information, hearing from the citizens, and providing policy recommendations to the County.

A County Task Force will help answer questions and provide recommendations for policies that would best protect our resources and families

We look forward to your continued support as we move forward in establishing a McKinley County Uranium Blue Ribbon Task Force.