

Health Talking Points

These talking points are provided as a guide to help you create your own message for the April 29 Hearing. Please feel free to modify them so they work for you.

- New Mexico needs to protect its clean water. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is responsible for making sure that Homestake cleans up the water that it contaminated during its uranium milling operations.
- Secretary Flynn has stated that radiation leaks are unacceptable in New Mexico. Therefore, NMED must find a way to stop the exposure of residents near this site to ambient radon emissions that are 5.5 times the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) acceptable limit, resulting in increased lifetime cancer risks 18 times what the EPA deems acceptable.
- The San Andres aquifer is the last remaining clean drinking water source for residents of Bluewater and Milan Villages, and the City of Grants, New Mexico. The San Andres/Glorieta aquifer is also a primary source of recharge for the Rio San Jose at Acoma, approximately 20 miles downstream of the Superfund site. Monitor the San Andres aquifer for contamination where it meets the shallow alluvium southwest of the Superfund site.
- The NM State Engineer has directed Homestake to use the best technology available to assure the conservation of water to the maximum extent practicable. Other sites like ours do not use flushing for remediation. The Homestake flushing experiment has not been successful and must end. Zeolite and other experimental treatments should NOT be conducted at this site. We have suffered enough from unproven technologies. No more experimentation on our community!
- None of the regulators - from NMED, EPA, or Nuclear Regulatory Commission - inspect the Homestake site on a regular basis. Homestake has only been fined once, when the community caught them dumping contaminated water illegally. Who knows how many times similar actions have gone undetected?

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