

Water 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.

- Homestake wants to discharge up to 5,500 gallons per minute of treated water from its uranium tailings piles, but the treated water is not safe to use. The increased discharge could also endanger the public water supply.
- A US Army Corps of Engineers' report recommends that Homestake end its flushing program at the large tailings pile. The current flushing program uses a combination of treated water and clean water to flush uranium contaminants from the tailings piles. The flushing program simply dilutes the contamination making it look as though progress is being made. The contaminated water needs to be cleaned not diluted. This is additional water being wasted.
- New Mexico needs to protect its clean water and stop further contamination at the Homestake Superfund site. ***Dilution is Not the Solution.***
- Why is there no hydrological barrier upstream to prevent more pollution from entering the site? Who is responsible if contaminants from the Ambrosia Lake district or former Bluewater mill site enter the Homestake site?
- No more experimentation on our community. Other sites like ours do not use flushing for remediation. The Homestake flushing experiment has not been successful. Zeolite and similar experiments should NOT be conducted at this site. We have suffered long enough from unproven technologies.
- Homestake's plan uses background radiation levels in at least 3 aquifers (Upper Chinle, Middle Chinle, and Lower Chinle) that were set using DOWNSTREAM water samples. It flies in the face of commonsense and justice and these background levels must be corrected. A discharge permit based on inadequate background radiation measurements is not acceptable.
- Cleaning the contaminated water and stopping further pollution is only possible if NMED works seriously with the US Environmental Protection Agency, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Homestake-Barrick Gold to propose a permit and action plan that cleans the contaminated water and not simply dilute it.

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