

THE MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT'S ALTERNATIVE REPORT

on the United States' Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Racial Discrimination

SUMMARY

- Uranium mining and milling in northwestern New Mexico from the 1950s to the 1990s contaminated millions of gallons of ground and surface water and many square miles of land.
- Churchrock Village located on the Navajo Nation is the site of the largest nuclear accident in the United States. In 1979, when a uranium mill waste pond dam broke, sending tens of millions of gallons of radioactive liquid and sludge past the homes of Navajo residents and down a river used for watering livestock. Thirty-five years later, neither the responsible corporation nor the United States government has cleaned up the contamination from this spill.¹
- While historic uranium mining, processing, and waste cleanup impact both communities of color and non-minority communities, cleanup in communities of color lags far behind that in non-minority communities, such as Durango, Colorado and Moab, Utah, and in some areas has not even begun.
- As a result, minority communities continue to suffer the adverse health impacts associated with living near radioactive and toxic waste sites.
- Despite minority communities bearing the disproportionate impacts from historic uranium mining and processing waste, federal and state government in New Mexico and throughout the western United States continue to permit and encourage new uranium mining operations.
- The United States, state, and local governments should immediately cease permitting new uranium mines and processing facilities until the disparate impacts of historic uranium mining have been addressed.

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¹ <http://nmindepth.com/2014/07/07/remembering-the-largest-radioactive-spill-in-u-s-history/>