

Hózhó Disruption: A Major Community Concern

Hózhó is how we live our lives. It means balance, beauty and harmony between we, the five-fingered people, and nature. When this balance is disturbed, our way of life, our health and our well-being all suffer. The uranium contamination and mining wastes at my home continue to disrupt hózhó.

-Edith Hood, RWRPCA



Elimination of trees and shrubs from a hillside during a removal action is an example of hózhó disruption in the RWPR community.

RWPRCA Participation on Technical Design Team

A key component of the NECR mine cleanup is moving radioactive waste to the UNC Mill site. A multi-agency technical team is designing a repository for this waste at the UNC Mill site. A RWPRCA member participates in each technical design team meeting. She brings back information to the community to enhance understanding and makes sure areas of community concern are addressed during the design process.



For More Information:



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Yá'át'ééh from the Red Water Pond Road Community



Spearheading Community Involvement at Uranium-Impacted Superfund Sites

Mission Statement:

Red Water Pond Road Community Association (RWPRCA) is a grassroots organization of Diné families who have experienced and lived with the impacts of uranium mining and milling in the Church Rock mining area since the 1960s. Our mission is to restore the land and water contaminated by uranium mining, improve the health of community members, and protect and preserve the natural and cultural environment in which we live. RWPRCA is a non-profit organization recognized under Navajo Nation laws including Fundamental Laws of the Diné, Title 1, Chapter 2.

The Community's Unique Location Near Three Superfund Sites



Red Water Pond Road
Community, Navajo Nation



Kerr McGee/Quivira Mine Site,
Navajo Nation



Northeast Church Rock (NECR)
Mine Site, Navajo Nation



United Nuclear Corporation
(UNC) Mill Site, New Mexico

How RWPRCA Is Enhancing Community Involvement at the Sites

Cleanup activities at all three Superfund sites are numerous and ongoing. RWPRCA participates in the environmental decision-making at these sites by routinely engaging with its neighbors as well as the agencies overseeing cleanup.

Hosting Monthly Community Meetings

The second Wednesday of each month, RWPRCA hosts an open community meeting potluck. At these meetings RWPRCA reviews site activities with the broader community and hosts guest presentations on a variety of topics. Recent guests have included representatives from Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment and McKinley County Place Matters.



Participating in Monthly Meetings with Agencies

Each month, representatives from RWPRCA's five member Executive Committee attend teleconferences with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Navajo Nation EPA. The purpose of these meetings is to ask and answer questions about recent and upcoming site activities and ensure follow up of agency and community action items.

Hosting Annual Community Commemoration Event

Each July, RWPRCA hosts an annual event commemorating the 1979 Church Rock uranium mill spill when a disposal pond on the UNC Mill Site breached its dam and spilled solid and liquid radioactive waste downstream. At its annual commemoration, RWPRCA hosts influential speakers, a five-kilometer race and a picnic to promote awareness of uranium mining and its impacts on communities.



Participating in Site Tours

A few times a year, agency representatives offer community members the opportunity to go on the sites to take a closer look at site conditions and ask questions. RWPRCA participates on each of these site tours and provides valuable feedback to enhance site cleanup.

Engaging in Community Educational Meetings

RWPRCA members participate in agency-sponsored educational meetings about environmental topics and recruits and advertises for these events.

