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Red Water Pond Road Community: 38 Years Since North East Church Rock
Uranium Tailings Spill That Was Never Investigated Nor Cleaned Up

• Uranium Tailings Spill Commemoration, Saturday, July 15, 7 am to 3 pm
  North of Red Rock State Park on State Highway 566 near Churchrock, NM

The Red Water Pond Road Community on Navajo Nation will be hosting their 38th annual
commemoration of the 1979 Uranium Tailings Spill that is the largest uranium tailings spill in
the United States.

On July 16, 1979, an earthen dam that held liquid uranium waste broke, releasing 1,000 tons
of solid radioactive mill waste and more than 90 million gallons of acidic and radioactive liquids
into the Rio Puerco. The contaminants flowed downstream through Gallup, NM and across
nine Navajo chapters. Several days after the spill, United Nuclear Corporation sent a handful
of people out with shovels and buckets in an attempt to remediate the mess. To this day there
has been no reclamation, no study to see how far the contamination went and its impacts on
local water systems and people’s health. United Nuclear Corporation has not been held
accountable for the spill.

The commemoration is part of the first Cross-Border Anti-Nuclear Action, commemorating the
uranium spill and the explosion of the first atomic bomb at the Trinity Site in NM.
https://swuraniumimpacts.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/17.06.27-Press-Release-Cross-
Border.pdf

“Let us come together again and share these issues and concerns, collaborate and strategize,
to push clean up of these contaminated environments among our Diné people, to restore,
preserve and protect our Mother Earth,” said Edith Hood, Red Water Pond Road Community
resident. “It is time for our state and tribal governments to stand up and help these impacted
communities on Dinetah. There has been enough talk. It is time to take action on behalf of the
people."

The North East Church Rock community are concerned about the uranium contamination
legacy that has poisoned Mother Earth, including our sacred waters, land, and livestock. This
gathering will provide a venue to discuss and educate everyone about the impacts of uranium
mining and milling and about the ongoing work to remove uranium contaminated soil from the
surrounding areas to protect our families and environment.

There will be a 7 am walk to the spill site to offer healing prayers. Following the walk people
will gather under shade for food, speeches, community education, and a silent auction.