

### ENDAUM's Goals

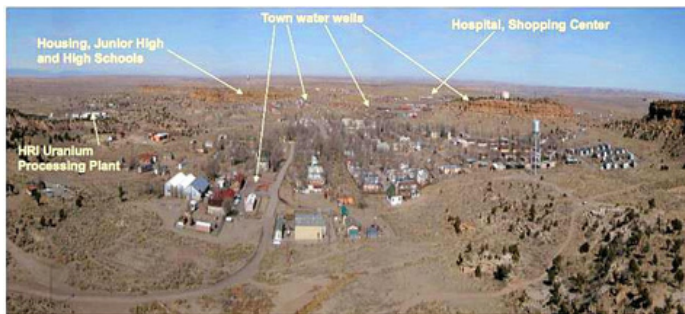
ENDAUM's principal goal is to protect the communities' water supplies and the health of their residents from new uranium mining. Its members fear that the ISL mining process will contaminate the regional aquifer that supplies high-quality drinking water and water for an estimated 15,000 people living in the Eastern Navajo Agency and their livestock. People come from 50 or more miles away to haul water from this aquifer to drink, cook and wash with.

Diné cultural beliefs about their natural surroundings necessarily include water. The essence of Diné philosophy is encompassed in the phrase *są'a nághái bik'e hózhó*, which translates loosely to "universal beauty, harmony and happiness". The phrase is commonly abbreviated as simply *hózhó*. *Hózhó* is the premise of the Diné worldview that all things are interrelated and interdependent, so that to exploit or destroy any aspect of creation is to harm one's self. All aspects of the natural world are imbued with sacredness and must be approached in the proper way to maintain balanced relationships in the universe. Thus, the destruction of water disrupts the natural balance of things and creates disharmony (*hózhó*).

In 2006, ENDAUM received its tax-exempt determination from the IRS and is a 501c(3) organization

### Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining

(ENDAUM) is a grassroots group formed in 1994 when a uranium mining corporation (HRI) announced its intention to use the in situ leach (ISL) process to mine uranium in the Churchrock and Crownpoint NM area. ISL retrieves uranium by injecting acids into rock and leaching it out with other chemicals. To date, no remediation of an ISR operation in the United States has successfully returned an aquifer to unpolluted conditions, particularly for uranium, arsenic and radium. Churchrock and Crownpoint are the first Diné communities targeted for new uranium mining since the 1980s



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Community water wells, schools, churches, residents and burial sites are within 2 miles of the HRI Crownpoint Processing Plant.

In 2025 new threats have emerged including a plan by DISA Technologies, Inc to use High Pressure Slurry Ablation (HPSA) on Navajo Nation. Ablation is a technology that involves using high pressure water to separate uranium from waste rock. Ablation is being marketed as remediation, however the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires a permit as a milling operation .

DISA's ablation leaves behind most of the waste rock which still has a contamination risk. There are no commercial scale data that indicates HPSA can remediate uranium mine waste to safe levels. The data available from smaller tests indicate that HPSA cannot remediate uranium mine waste to pre-mining levels or even levels that protect residential or agricultural use.

Ablation is a process that uses a lot of water – a resource which must be protected in our arid climate. The NRC's Environmental Assessment says that DISA's HPSA technology will use hundreds of thousands of gallons of fresh water every month over the span of eight months to thirteen years. Most uranium mine waste is located in rural communities, so this water use will put an enormous and additional strain on rural municipal water systems.

**Larry King, ENDAUM board member  
submitted testimony to the Inter-  
American Commission on Human Rights**



Larry J. King explains the Diné's deep connection to the land. "When I look outside and I see my livestock grazing out there, I feel good, knowing that I am able to carry on the traditional Navajo way of life. For the older Navajo people, if their sheep get taken away, they get sick." The proposed ISR mines will operate on non-Indian land adjacent to where King and his family reside. "We have no place to go". "Through my father's side, the parcel of land has been in my family's possession for several generations."

Excerpt from the petition filed in 2011 by New Mexico Environmental Law Center (NMELC) on behalf of ENDAUM MEMBERS against the United States of America to the INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:

"Despite the ongoing public health and environmental crises that have resulted from the State's (US) failure to reasonably regulate the uranium mining and milling industry in the past, the State continues to license uranium operations that it acknowledges will contaminate natural resources within the Navajo Nation.

By granting a uranium mining license it concedes will pollute Navajo community aquifers with uranium and other heavy metals and cause contamination to air, soil, and other natural resources on lands traditionally used and occupied by the Diné, the State has violated Articles 1 (Right to Life), 3 (Right to Religious Freedom), 11 (Right to Health), 13 (Right to Culture) 23 (Right to Property) of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man ("Declaration").

## A SAMPLING OF ENDAUM'S WORK

Since its founding, ENDAUM has engaged in community organizing, political interaction with the Navajo Nation, and litigation to accomplish its goals. **In 2001**, ENDAUM secured resolutions opposing the HRI Crownpoint project from 13 Navajo chapters and community groups. **In 2005** these efforts supported the passage of a ban on uranium mining and milling anywhere on the Nation. However, for the next 10 years, HRI persisted in its intent to mine at Churchrock and Crownpoint sites.

**In 2015**, HRI applied to renew its expired NM permit for dumping waste water at its proposed Crownpoint ISL mine. While the company had a valid license to mine for uranium, it could not go ahead without the waste water permit. The NM Environment Dept. issued a permit to HRI in 2015. ENDAUM and MASE (Multicultural Association for a Safe Environment) challenged the renewal pointing out that the permit allowed contamination in violation of the state's lower groundwater standard. **On December 15, 2015**, the NM Environment Secretary agreed and cancelled the permit.

The IACHR picked up ENDAUM's petition **in 2022** and invited members to present on nuclear colonialism in **March 2022** in Los Angeles. Members of the IACHR Commission then traveled to Churchrock during the summer to view first hand the toxic impacts from past uranium mining meeting with impacted community members and providing education on racial discrimination. Following the visit, NMELC and ENDAUM filed a request for a Thematic Hearing on uranium impacts. We are still waiting for a response.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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