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## Fwd: Slick Rock Canyon Permitting Objection

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Info - DNR , DRMS\_ <drms\_info@state.co.us>

Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 6:50 PM

To: Lucas West - DNR <lucas.west@state.co.us>, Travis Marshall - DNR <travis.marshall@state.co.us>

Hello everyone:

I'm forwarding the following communication from Jennifer Singer.

Jennifer's contact information is email at: [jennifer4cornersbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer4cornersbroadband@gmail.com)

Thank you

Eléni



**COLORADO**  
Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety  
Department of Natural Resources

P 303.866.3567 | F 303.832.8106  
[1313 Sherman Street, Room 215, Denver, CO 80203](https://www.colorado.gov/dnrm)  
[drms\\_info@state.co.us](mailto:drms_info@state.co.us) | <https://drms.colorado.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Singer** <[jennifer4cornersbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer4cornersbroadband@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 4:54 PM

Subject: Slick Rock Canyon Permitting Objection

To: <[drms\\_info@state.co.us](mailto:drms_info@state.co.us)>



**4Corners Broadband**

**December 7, 2023**

Email address: [drms\\_info@state.co.us](mailto:drms_info@state.co.us)

To whom it may concern:

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a women-led national grassroots organization that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. The 4Corners Broadband is a local group working to protect our regional environment. We oppose exploratory drilling permits for Slick Rock Canyon and believe that uranium drilling and mining are incompatible with protecting the Dolores River Watershed. The nearby White Mesa Utes have been protesting White Mesa Uranium Mill for many years. If uranium mining begins at Slick Rock Canyon, the materials would be transported to White Mesa Mill, and the White Mesa Utes are more likely to suffer health effects.

Uranium is widespread in the earth's crust, and whenever aquifer and bedrock interface, there might be some uranium in the water. Exploratory drilling or mining increases exposure of water to potential contamination. Uranium binds to soil and can be taken up by garden produce and forage crops. Few studies exist on the long term effects of uranium ingestion in humans. The health and safety of everyone will be affected by spread of radioactivity from the tailings or tailings ponds.

People live in Disappointment Valley, graze cattle, and grow produce. They would be hurt by allowing uranium drilling or mining. We can't allow this testing to even begin. The detrimental effects to the local community are too dire to make this same mistake again. Contamination from uranium mining activity will persist for generations. The dust that blows away from the sites and the copious amounts of water used for dust control and uranium extraction all contain long lived radioisotopes would be disseminated into the environment. In the tailings, thorium 230 decays to produce radon gas. With a half life of 76,000 years, it will produce radon for millennia. In the atmosphere, radon decays into the radioactive solids polonium, bismuth, and lead, which enter water, crops, trees, soil, and animals, including humans. Their ranches could become worthless.

No wonder Cortez and surrounding areas are still considered a cancer cluster because of uranium mining from over 40 years ago. One third of miners were killed in CO from mine accidents or cancers. Uravan became a Superfund site because of hazardous waste and over 800 people had to move, according to the EPA. We don't have enough information on the community effects, but since radioactive isotopes spread throughout the environment, the requested exploratory drilling is an unsafe proposition. Please deny the exploratory drilling permits for Slick Rock Canyon.

4Corners Broadband

Jennifer Singer 4Corners Broadband leader/Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Shelby Robinson

Lisa Henry

Valerie DeLaune

Jan Tankersley

and

Jan Moraczewski, Fort Collins, CO

Sources:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3653646/>

<https://www.cpr.org/2023/12/04/what-happened-to-the-town-of-uravan-colorado/>

