



VOICES *from the* EARTH



SUMMER 2008 – Vol. 9, No. 2

Southwest Research and Information Center | Albuquerque, New Mexico

\$4.00

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SRIC Extras 12

“We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobile rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to humanity.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



People Helping People



After 14 years, Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM) efforts to halt the NRC licensing of Hydro Resources, Inc. culminated with the hearing in Denver, CO on May 12, 2008. Attendees included Crownpoint Middle School students Lemanuel Loley, Theron Henderson, Kaydon Tracey, Kelsey Henry, and Savannah Cowbo. (PHOTO COURTESY OF JUANA COLÓN, NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER.)

Since 1971, Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) has been working with communities, from assisting them with reclamation of their lands, to helping them prevent unwanted industries coming into their communities. But an important part of those efforts is helping these communities learn to help themselves. From these efforts come new organizations. But to have even stronger results, these communities are now mobilizing into coalitions or collaboratives, working together to keep their people, and their environment, safe.

This issue of *Voices from the Earth* focuses on some of those efforts and communities. Five Native Tribes — the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, and Zuni, the Navajo Nation, and Hopi Tribe — are working to protect Mount Taylor, which they use in their sacred ceremonies. For some of these tribes, these ceremonies always have been shielded from outsiders' view. But in light of the recent efforts by companies to renew uranium mining near this sacred site, and the history of this industry's negative impacts on their lands and their health, these tribes are now unifying their efforts in order to protect Mount Taylor from further harm (see pages 6–7).

There are also other efforts across the region by groups and individuals to educate the public about the many problems caused by uranium mining (pages 8–9). One part of this effort involves the Grand Canyon National Park. The Grand Canyon has long been a source of awe and inspiration for many in this country (and around

the world), but it is being threatened by renewed interest in uranium mining. The mining companies claim that they can mine at the boundaries of the Grand Canyon with minimal impact to the Park and the public. But as many readers of *Voices* know, uranium mining has impacts on both the environment and the long-term health of communities and the public.

Organizations, tribes, and individuals are commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Longest Walk (page 2). The Longest Walk marked an effort by Native People across the country to protect their rights as sovereign nations, as well as protect their freedom of religion, a right long denied them in this country. The Longest Walk 2 is currently traveling across the country to not only celebrate the Anniversary, but also to promote the theme, “All Life is Sacred.”

In terms of the nuclear fuel cycle, there continue to be controversies over the front

end (uranium mining and milling), power generation, and waste disposal. Many communities and organizations nationally are working to oppose President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) (page 5). Many in Congress, and people throughout this country, feel this program is controversial, generally unwanted by the public, and ultimately too expensive for the American taxpayers. And SRIC's work continues in our efforts to keep the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) safe, regardless of the U.S. Department of Energy's efforts to bring “hotter” waste to WIPP, in violation of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (page 4).

It is because of these stories of communities working together that we continue to work on issues affecting the environment and human health. Helping one another, and protecting our environment for future generations — where's the wrong in that? 

Southwest Research and Information Center
VOICES *from the* EARTH
Environmental views, news and reviews from SRIC
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