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Comments:

Re: Roca Honda Uranium Mine Proposal on Mt. Taylor

Dear Cibola National Forest Supervisor,

To: Forest Supervisor

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

2113 Osuna Rd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87113

I submit the following comments on the Roca Honda Resources Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Please select Alternative 1, ?No Action?, for the following reasons:

1. Roca Honda will waste New Mexico?s already limited water.

Roca Honda is proposing to pump millions of gallons of water a day to operate the mine. This water will be pumped from the underground aquifer that our communities will rely on in the future.

2. Mt. Taylor is a sacred site.

Many people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, recognize the cultural value of Mt. Taylor. Mt Taylor is a place of great spiritual significance. It is central to oral history stories and ceremonies, and it plays a vital role in cosmology and religious practices. Shrines, pilgrimage trails, traditional medicines, and springs are all at risk of being destroyed by new mining. Historical and cultural impacts need to be analyzed under the protection of the National Historic Preservation Act and NEPA.

3. There is no mill to process the uranium.

Roca Honda proposes to open their mining operation with no plan on what to do with the uranium once it is mined. There is only one operating mill in the United States, which is not taking any additional ore to process.

4. There is no repository for uranium waste.

There is nowhere to take and store the waste. It is irresponsible and dangerous to begin mining when there is no answer for waste disposal.

5. Radioactive waste and by-products would be transported through our communities.

Roca Honda would transport radioactive and hazardous materials through our communities. Local law enforcement and public health entities are not prepared to handle accidents during transport. Communities would bear the brunt of responding to emergency situations and living with the aftermath. The DEIS does not identify a mill site, the transportation route, or communities along the way.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Justin Bendell

Albuquerque, NM

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