

## EPA: Don't Sacrifice Navajo Water for Uranium Mining

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The Colorado Plateau of New Mexico still bears the unhealed sores of the Uranium Boom of the last century – radioactive waste piles, contaminated water and hundreds of mines on Navajo land abandoned by companies looking to make a quick profit. Despite the massive contamination, companies want to start a new era of mining in this region.

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In 1989, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave Hydro Resources, Inc. an "aquifer exemption." This permit allows Hydro Resources to destroy part of the aquifer beneath the Navajo community in order to extract uranium through in situ leach processing (ISL). The EPA did this before the community even knew about the proposal.

Recently, something unprecedented happened: the EPA agreed to revisit that 1989 decision. With new evidence of how ISL mining contaminates groundwater and recent health studies, the community hopes the EPA will reconsider all the facts and revoke Hydro Resources' aquifer exemption. In a region where many Diné families still live without running water, water is life!