

A generation spent fighting companies whose project threatens human health and a regional aquifer...even as the local communities continue to struggle with a permanent crisis from the radioactive and toxic contamination left by the last uranium boom.

*A caveat:* this timeline looks at the legal aspects of this case – it does not dwell on the years of education, organizing and advocacy by ENDAUM’s members and their allies or the technical aspects and academic studies that grew up with this fight. *And a thank you:* to our members and funders who have supported this critical work for two decades – because of you, you will not find in this timeline the words “mining began”. **With your continued support, you never will.**

### 1970s – 1980s

- The largest accidental release of radioactive material occurs in the US at the United Nuclear mill near Red Water Road Pond Community, near Church Rock. (1979)
- The uranium industry enters a bust; companies walk away from New Mexico leaving billions of dollars in cleanup liabilities.
- HRI applies for federal licenses and state permits to construct “in situ leach” uranium mines and production facility in Crownpoint and Church Rock. (1988)



Photo: SRIC, 1979

### 1990s

- ENDAUM founded (1994); begins to work with Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC); with help from SRIC and Washington D.C. attorney Dian Curran, they file to intervene in NRC process.
- NMELC begins representation of ENDAUM and SRIC.
- NRC grants source materials license to HRI (1997) before NMELC and its clients present their case; NMELC appeals to the NRC.

### 2000s

- NMELC, ENDAUM and SRIC successfully advocate to reduce New Mexico’s uranium groundwater standard from 5,000 micrograms/liter ( $\mu\text{l}$ ) to 30  $\mu\text{l}$ . (2004)
- ENDAUM, with help from NMELC, SRIC and other allies, successfully advocates for the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act, which bans uranium mining in Navajo Indian Country. (2005)
- NMELC, ENDAUM and others help to defeat numerous efforts by New Mexico elected representatives to subsidize uranium mining and nuclear power.
- NRC upholds HRI license. (2006)



Photo: Stelbie Knox, 2005

- The Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) is formed by five regional groups: ENDAUM, the Laguna-Acoma Coalition for a Safe Environment, the Post-71 Uranium Workers Committee, Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance and Red Water Road Community Association. MASE has been a crucial advocate for the prevention of new mining and cleanup of existing contamination in northwestern New Mexico. (2007)
- NMELC files an appeal of the NRC license with the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver; we are unsuccessful in a 2-1 vote. We file a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court, but the petition is not granted. (2010-11)



Photo: Juana Colon, 2010



*We will continue to advocate for reclamation of Cold War-era contamination in the region; to push the EPA to rescind the aquifer exemption (a groundwater pollution permit) issued for the Church Rock Section 8 site.*

### 2010s

- ENDAUM, NMELC and numerous allies push US EPA to rescind aquifer exemption granted to HRI in 1989.
- On behalf of ENDAUM, NMELC asks the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to investigate human rights abuses perpetrated by the NRC in this case. (2011)
- The Navajo Nation cites HRI for trespass after the company travels on a tribal road. The citation leads to a settlement that requires the company to clean up Cold War-era waste at its Church Rock sites before it can begin mining. (2012)
- NMELC submits a “shadow report” on uranium mining to the United Nations’ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Committee takes the US to task for failing to protect indigenous communities and other communities of color from industrial pollution. (2014)
- HRI tries to invalidate the Navajo Nation ban on uranium mining by working with a few sympathetic Tribal Council Members; after an intense education effort by ENDAUM and its allies, the effort is rebuffed by a vote of 18-3 in the Tribal Council. (2015)
- After five years, NMELC and ENDAUM finally prevail in their effort to force NMED to terminate a groundwater discharge permit for the proposed Church Rock Section 8 site. No mining can occur without this permit. (2015)
- HRI sells the Crownpoint Uranium Project to Laramide Resources, Ltd. (2016)
- NMELC and ENDAUM will oppose any future attempts by Laramide Resources to obtain permits for the project.



Photo: Jennifer Marshall, 2011

