

RESOLUTION NO. 44

A RESOLUTION OF THE BLUFF TOWN COUNCIL OPPOSING THE ACCEPTANCE AND TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FROM ESTONIA AND OTHER ENTITIES THROUGH THE TOWN OF BLUFF AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS many Indigenous community members already affected by living in close proximity to abandoned uranium mines are still seeking relief, radioactive waste in these areas has remained for decades at many of the mines creating elevated levels of radiation;

WHEREAS potential health effects of uranium mining include lung cancer from the inhalation of radioactive particles as well as bone cancer and impaired kidney function from exposure to radionuclides in drinking water;

WHEREAS Congress acknowledged that radiation exposure from the mining, transport and processing of uranium has affected and continues to affect thousands of individuals and in 1990 passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to provide compensation to individuals who have developed and are developing cancers and other serious diseases caused by uranium mining;

WHEREAS White Mesa Mill is the last conventional uranium mill in the country and is located between the town of Blanding and the town of Bluff and is directly adjacent to the Ute Mountain Ute community of White Mesa, only five miles from the mill;

WHEREAS the owners of White Mesa Mill, Energy Fuels Resources, have applied to accept radioactive material from the country of Estonia as well as from Japan and the Navajo Nation;

WHEREAS local community members have concerns about the lack of oversight, safety and contamination of local groundwater resources on and around the White Mesa Mill;

WHEREAS by letter dated July 2, 2020 the San Juan County Commission opposed the proposed amendments and modifications to the White Mesa Mill license which would "authorize Energy Fuels Resources to receive radioactive Uranium Material from Estonia and from the Pacific Railroad Moffat Tunnel in Colorado at the White Mesa Uranium Mill site in San Juan County;"

WHEREAS by resolution passed on June 22, 2020, the Navajo Utah Commission of the Navajo Nation Council opposed importation of Estonian radioactive material to the White Mesa Mill;

WHEREAS Utah State Highway 191 that runs south from White Mesa Mill runs through the town of Bluff and is the only road that connects east and west Bluff;

WHEREAS the transportation of uranium ore through the town of Bluff and the surrounding communities will put Bluff and community residents at risk for their physical health and safety;

WHEREAS the residents of Bluff specifically and San Juan County in general should not be the country's, let alone the world's, dumping ground for hazardous material.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BLUFF TOWN COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

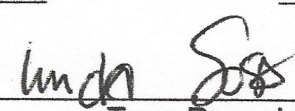
SECTION 1. THAT the Town of Bluff opposes the transport of uranium ore and other radioactive materials through San Juan County and the town of Bluff to the White Mesa Mill south of Blanding and adjacent to the White Mesa Ute Tribal lands.

SECTION 2. THAT the Bluff Town Council opposes the proposed amendments and modifications for the License Condition 10.10 and Condition 10.12 which would authorize Energy Fuels Resources to receive radioactive Uranium Material from Estonia and from the Pacific Railroad Moffat Tunnel in Colorado at the White Mesa Uranium Mill site in San Juan County.

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUFF, UTAH ON THIS 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Town Council Member Hook	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Town Council Mayor Leppanen	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Town Council Member Murray	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Town Council Member Sayers	<u>X</u>	---	---	---
Town Council Member Sosa	<u>X</u>	---	---	---

Mayor: 
Mayor Ann K. Leppanen

Attest: 
Town Recorder Sosa