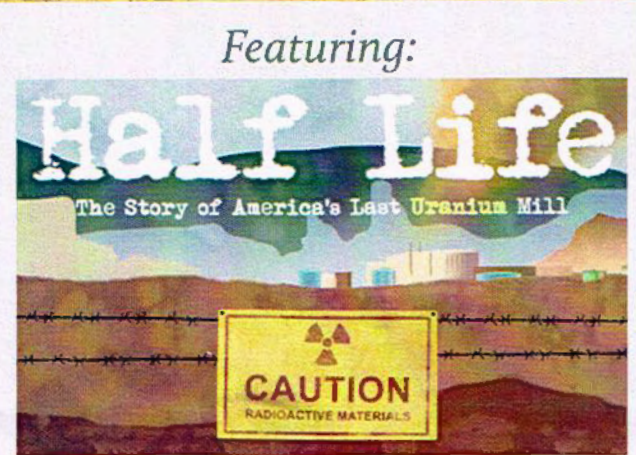


White Mesa Community BBQ, Film Showing & Update



Find out about the uranium mill's threat to our health, water, air, land, and culture

A film about the ongoing toxic legacy of the uranium industry in southeastern Utah.

"If contamination did show up in these seeps and springs, these resources would be unusable for the tribe." —Colin Larrick, Water Quality Specialist, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Monday OCT 3, 6pm

White Mesa Recreation Center

The BBQ dinner starts at 6 pm, and the informational meeting will follow.

Sponsored by the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and White Mesa Concerned Community

Co-sponsored by the Grand Canyon Trust, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, and Uranium Watch



FACT SHEET

What is the White Mesa Mill?

The White Mesa Mill is the only conventional uranium mill licensed to operate in the United States. Through subsidiaries, Canada-based Energy Fuels Inc. owns and operates the mill and uranium mines that supply ore to the mill. The mill is located three miles north of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's White Mesa Ute community and six miles south of Blanding, Utah. It was built in 1979 to process uranium ore from the Colorado Plateau. In 1987, it began receiving "alternate feed material" (uranium-bearing radioactive waste) for processing. From 1999 to the early 2000s, the mill processed only alternate feed. Since then, the mill has intermittently processed both uranium ore and alternate feed from across North America. Energy Fuels disposes of the mill's radioactive and toxic waste tailings in "impoundments" that take up about 275 acres next to the mill.

What are the tailings impoundments?

There are currently five tailings impoundments (Cells 1, 2, 3, 4A, and 4B) in the mill's tailings-management system. These impoundments receive tailings, including waste processing solutions, that are laden with radioactive and toxic elements.

What are the health and environmental hazards?

- Cells 1, 2, and 3 at the White Mesa Mill were constructed with thin plastic liners between two layers of crushed rock. The liners in those cells had a useful life of 20 years when they were installed in the early 1980s and have never been replaced.
- The leak detection system in Cells 1, 2, and 3 lacks a double liner and will not detect a leak until groundwater has already been contaminated.
- The mill emits radioactive and toxic air pollutants including radon and thoron (gases) and sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (particulates). Windblown particulates and gases travel off-site. Energy Fuels has stockpiled both ore and alternate feed on-site. Many of the stockpiled materials are not adequately covered and can blow off-site. White Mesa residents report smelling pollutants from the mill.
- Trucks loaded with ore and hazardous materials travel on Arizona and Utah highways to reach the mill. Alternate feed materials are usually off-loaded from the railroad at Cisco, Utah, trucked to Interstate 70, east to Highway 191, and south through Moab, Monticello, and Blanding to the mill. Ore from the mines in the Grand Canyon region travels north through the Navajo Nation and Bluff to the mill.
- There has been a nine-year delay in the renewal of the mill's radioactive materials license and approval of an updated reclamation plan for the mill.

- There are plumes of increased levels of nitrate, nitrite, chloride, heavy metals and radionuclides, and a trend of decreasing pH in the perched aquifer beneath the mill site.
- Radon emissions are not measured from Cells 1, 4A, or 4B, and the actual amount of radon emissions from these impoundments is unknown. In both 2012 and 2013, radon emissions from Cell 2 at the mill exceeded the limits established by the Clean Air Act.

What are other community concerns?

- The mill was built on sacred ancestral lands of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. More than 200 rare and significant cultural sites are located on the mill site. These include burial sites, large kivas and pit houses, storage pits, and artifacts. When the mill and its tailings impoundments were constructed, several significant archeological sites were destroyed. These included pit houses, kivas, burial sites, and food-processing and storage structures.
- Many residents in the communities of White Mesa and Bluff are concerned that the Navajo Sandstone Aquifer, which provides drinking water to the area, will be contaminated. This primary drinking water aquifer lies underneath the mill site.
- Uranium ore is trucked to the mill through tribal lands and towns across the Colorado Plateau.

What is processed at the White Mesa Mill and where does it come from?

Selected Examples:

- Up to 5,000 cubic yards of radioactive waste per site from various in-situ leaching sites in Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Texas for direct disposal.
- Uranium ore from uranium mines in the Grand Canyon region.
- 32,000 short tons of material resulting from Fanstall FMRI's industrial processing of tantalum and niobium (Muskogee, Oklahoma).
- More than 300,000 tons of contaminated soil (Tonawanda, New York, Ashland 1 FUSRAP and Linde FUSRAP sites).
- Contaminated materials removed from FUSRAP sites in St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2,343 tons of calcium fluoride and 2,475 tons of KOH solution (Allied Signal, Metropolis, Illinois).
- 17,000 tons of waste sludge containing lead, thorium, uranium, and other toxic metals (Molycorp, Inc. mine at Mountain Pass, California).
- 4,500 tons of uranium mining waste (Midnite Mine Superfund Site, Spokane Indian Reservation, Washington).

Who regulates the mill?

The mill is subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control regulations. Radon emissions from the tailings are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Mine Safety and Health Administration regulates worker health and safety.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Utah Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/businesses/E/energyfuels/whitemesamill.htm>

Utah Department of Environmental Quality Electronic Document Management System:

<http://eqedocs.utah.gov/>

Canadian Securities Administrators System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval Files:

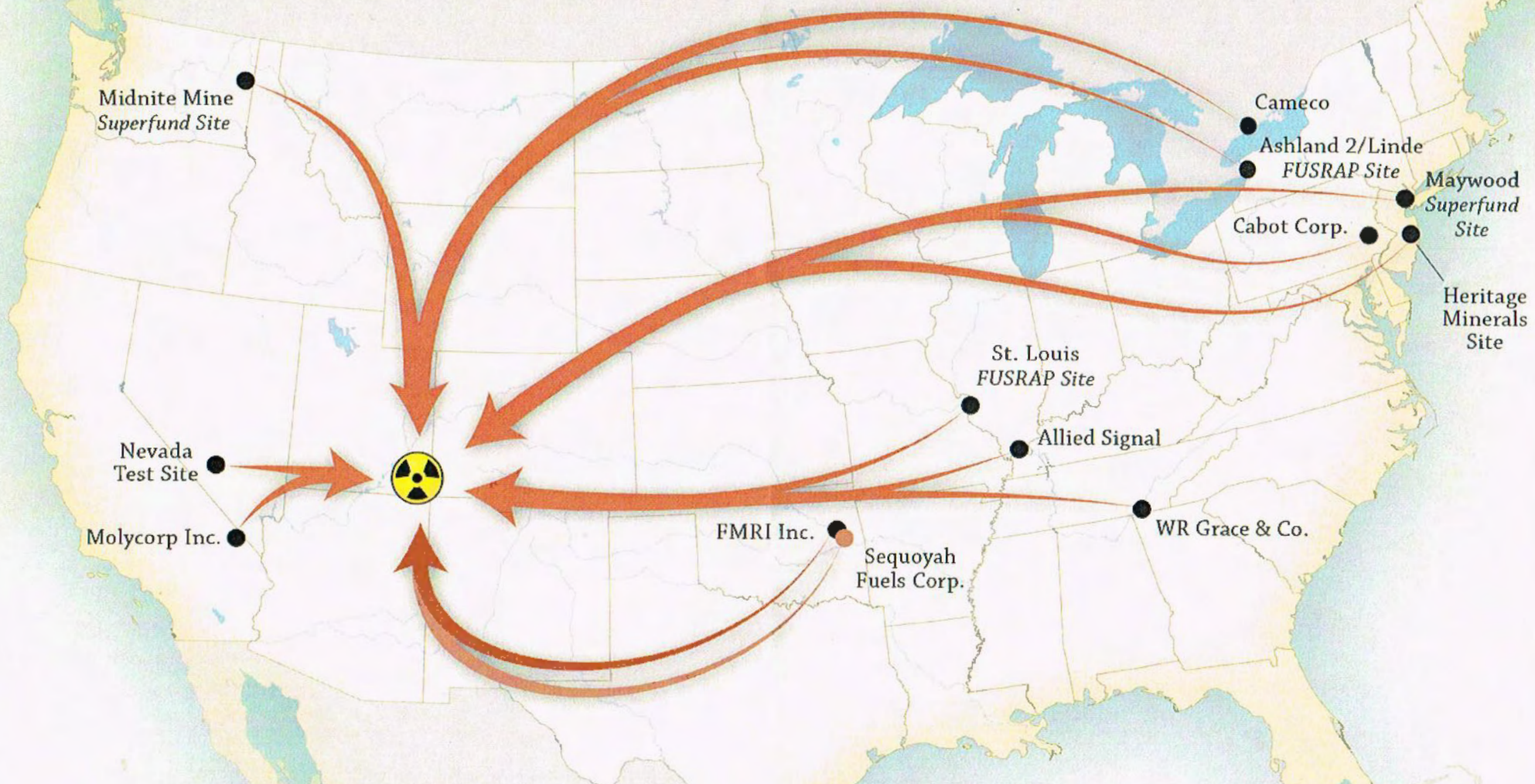
<http://www.sedar.com/DisplayProfile.do?lang=EN&issuerType=03&issuerNo=00004321>

Energy Fuels Resources Inc.: <http://www.energyfuels.com/>

Environmental Protection Agency Subpart W Radon Emission Standard Rulemaking:

<https://www.epa.gov/radiation/subpart-w-rulemaking-activity>

Radioactive Waste Shipments Approved for White Mesa Mill: 1993-2016







Alternate Feed Application Status

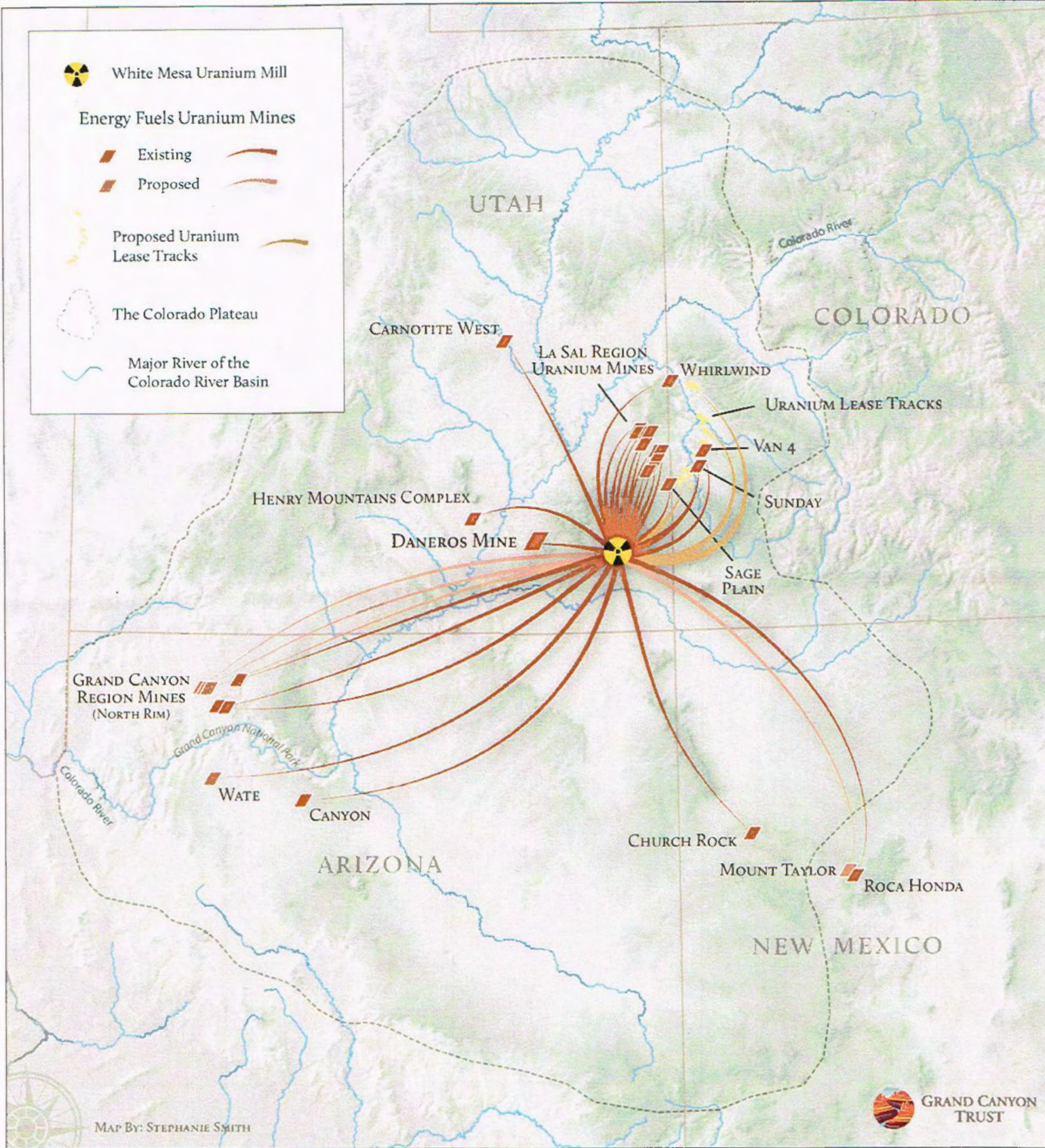
- Approved →
- Pending →



GRAND CANYON TRUST

Map by Stephanie Smith, GCT

 White Mesa Uranium Mill
Energy Fuels Uranium Mines
 Existing 
 Proposed 
 Proposed Uranium Lease Tracks 
 The Colorado Plateau
 Major River of the Colorado River Basin



MAP BY: STEPHANIE SMITH



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