

August 25, 2015

Ms. Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Mr. Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Neil Kornze, Director  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW, Rm 5665  
Washington DC 20240

Mr. Tom Tidwell, Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250-003

**Re: Uranium mining in the Grand Canyon area Coconino County, AZ**

Dear Secretary Jewell, Secretary Vilsack, Director Kornze and Chief Tidwell:

It is my view that protection of land resources, water resources, and environmental values must cover all phases of uranium mining activity from exploration, through development and production, to reasonable post-mining rehabilitation. Current regulations do not provide assurance that uranium mines near the vicinity of the Grand Canyon are adequately regulated to protect land and water resources, or environmental values. Most problematically, current regulations allow uranium mines in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon to re-open after decades of non-operation without updated environmental review or new plans of operation – regardless of the extent of changed circumstances. This needs to be thoughtfully addressed.

It is also my view that where uranium mining activities cause a significant disturbance of public land, Congress should require that the land be restored or rehabilitated after a determination of feasibility based on a careful balancing of the economics, costs, and the extent of the environmental impacts within one year following final cessation of

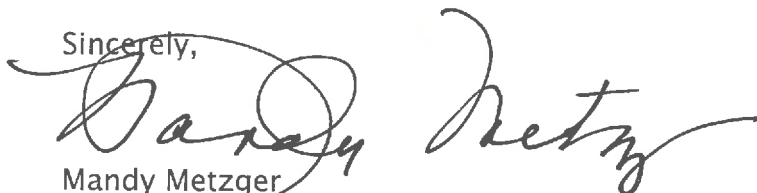
Uranium Mining in the Grand Canyon Area, Coconino County  
Page 2  
August 25, 2015

operations. This deadline is reasonable, particularly given the limited geographic extent of the uranium mines in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon.

Growing up in Wyoming, I developed a respect for and supported quality mining practices. It was when I moved to Coconino County that I observed the life-challenging impacts created by the mining of uranium. Whether by lack of responsible regulation, acceptance of responsibility, or outright disregard - people, land and water resources in Coconino County have suffered irreversible harm from contamination stemming from uranium mining activities. I am firmly in support of revisions that diminish the probability of additional harm and contamination going into the future.

As a member of the Arizona Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council (RAC), I look forward to thoughtful discussions regarding the ideas and concerns of uranium mining as noted in the Petition for Rulemaking as submitted by the Grand Canyon Trust petition. I will advocate for positive outcomes as they may relate both to the uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region and to mothballed reclamation as well.

Sincerely,



Mandy Metzger  
Supervisor, District 4