

**William Lee
Commissioner**



MCKINLEY COUNTY

Supporting Staff:

**Carol Bowman-Muskett
Chairperson**

**Anthony Dimas Jr.
County Manager**

**Genevieve Jackson
Commissioner**

**Douglas W. Decker
County Attorney**

AGENDA

Tuesday March 14, 2017
Meeting 1:30 PM

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance

ACTION:

1. Re-consider; hear and take comments; and, take action on the following: "A Resolution Regarding Uranium Mining, Processing and Exploration Supporting Efforts to Have Interested Groups Work With Federal and State Agencies With Regulatory Authority on This Matter" -- Resolution No. JAN-17-006. This Resolution No. JAN-17-006 was considered in a previous meeting on January 3, 2017 surrounding the 4th reading of Ordinance No. NOV-16-004 "Establishing a Moratorium on Uranium Mining, Processing, and exploration; Establishing Information gathering meetings; and Establishing penalties." Anthony Dimas, County Manager; and, Douglas W. Decker, County Attorney.

Announcements:

Monthly Calendar
Next Commission Meeting

Adjournment

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF MCKINLEY
RESOLUTION NO. JAN-17-006

A RESOLUTION REGARDING URANIUM MINING, PROCESSING AND EXPLORATION;
SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO HAVE INTERESTED GROUPS WORK WITH FEDERAL
AND STATE AGENCIES WITH REGULATORY AUTHORITY ON THIS MATTER

WHEREAS, uranium mining and processing, including conventional milling and in situ leach (ISL) mining, occurred in McKinley county from the 1950s until the 1990s; and,

WHEREAS, many companies operating uranium mines during the time failed to adequately or completely remediate uranium mining waste; and,

WHEREAS, as a result there remain hundreds of unremediated, partially remediated, or inadequately remediated uranium mines in McKinley County; and,

WHEREAS, unremediated, inadequately remediated, and partially remediated uranium mines have resulted in contamination of water, thereby preventing tens of millions of gallons of water from being used for domestic or agricultural purposes or other beneficial uses; and,

WHEREAS, unremediated, inadequately remediated, and partially remediated uranium mines, have contaminated soil resources in McKinley County; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nuclear Corporation uranium mine and mill complex in Churchrock has been declared a Superfund site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act; and,

WHEREAS, Churchrock, located in McKinley County, is the site of a nuclear accident, the July 16, 1979 United Nuclear Corporation mill tailings spill, the environmental and public health impacts of which continue to the present; and,

WHEREAS, the uranium market has been depressed for over twenty years and shows no signs of recovery making the purported economic benefits of new uranium mining unlikely; and,

WHEREAS, the uranium market in its currently depressed state is an opportune time to seek Federal and State Agencies with regulatory authority in this area to gather and analyze information without the need to risk litigation expense from a challenge to a moratorium or enforcement of a moratorium at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, McKinley County's future is rooted in environmentally and economically operated industries including the extractive industries; and,

WHEREAS, the local public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the uranium mining and processing industry have not been specifically gathered, heard or analyzed; and,

WHEREAS, McKinley County has authority pursuant to N.M.S.A. §4-37-1 to protect the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MCKINLEY COUNTY THAT:

1. McKinley County supports any group(s) efforts in seeking Federal and State Agencies (i.e. the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the US Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); Navajo Nation; the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department (NMEM&NR); the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED); etc.), to hold public meetings within the McKinley County area (at least six (6) hearings over the next three years) to hear, collect, and analyze information on the impacts of uranium mining in McKinley County; and,
2. McKinley County will use its contacts and make efforts to introduce group(s) to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and State Agencies, to begin discussions by those interested groups with those respective agencies and levels of government.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2017.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MCKINLEY

Carol Bowman-Muskett, Commissioner

Genevieve Jackson, Commissioner

Bill Lee, Commissioner

ATTEST:

By _____
Harriett K. Becenti, County Clerk