
BAPE Submission by Samuel Cox

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There are many uses for uranium that the Crees disapprove of. The majority of the uranium mined will be used for nuclear energy, and if ever there was a nuclear disaster, we Crees don't want that hanging over our heads. Even if the government ensures that the uranium mined will not be used for negative purposes such as the manufacture of nuclear weapons, how can we be sure some of it, once exported, will not get into the wrong hands? We don't want that hanging over our heads.

I want to know about the mining waste, and the material left on site, on our land. What will happen to all the radioactive materials in the long-run? Do mining companies have enough money to be able to manage the sites once the mineral has all been mined? I also would like to have information from other communities who live near uranium mines. Do they become sick? How have they benefitted? What impacts and changes have they noticed since the mines opened? To me, the economic benefit does not compensate for the risks to your health.

When the dams were built, we were told there would be no impacts. But later they found very high levels of mercury in our fish near the reservoir. Me and my family were tested for mercury and our levels were very high. We all had to take a big pill for a one year period to reduce the levels of mercury in our bodies. So, the fish that was supposed to sustain us ended up making us sick. That is why we don't trust developers who want to mine our resources, especially when they say they can protect us against the impacts, and that is why I am against uranium mining on our territory.