UNION CARBIDE FACES CRIMINAL CHARGES

Union Carbide Corporation is facing criminal charges in South Dakota for violation of state law. The company had begun digging a 2,000-foot uranium exploration shaft in Craven Canyon before obtaining the necessary permits. Operations at the exploration site were halted by Union Carbide on August 1, as advised by the South Dakota Conservation Commission.

Before the operation had been stopped, American Mining Company (under contract to UC) had stripped tipoff from the ridge, constructed a small dam, and bulldozed a road onto the site. Blasting of rock at the site, which had already begun, and a series of 4-foot trenches were cleared under the willow thicket. The "impregnable adit" or mine shaft has been labelled as a preliminary project of a large operation planned for Craven Canyon by Union Carbide. Within a few years, UCC plans to be operating seven open pit uranium mines, one underground mine, a bang blending facility, and according to R.G. Beverly, Director of Environmental Control for the company, the UC spokesman at the Spearfish forum, possibly a small uranium processing plant.

Although Forest Service approval of the operating plan (which can be appealed until August 21) gives Union Carbide authority to operate on federal land, the company failed to obtain an exploration permit which is required by state law. Mr. Beverly claims that he was led by state officials to believe that having satisfied Forest Service, he has the state's go-ahead, and he has a "gentlemen's agreement" with local officials. The "gentlemen's agreement" was failed, however, when Black Hills Alliance Attorney Andy Reid and Phyllis Gerard reported to the State Conservation Commission that Union Carbide was operating in violation of state law.

Union Carbide had indicated intentions of applying to the Commission for a variance which would allow them to continue working without a permit until the permit was obtained. But it appears that the state statute does not give authority to the Commission to grant a variance, leaving Union Carbide with no option other than applying for the appropriate permit at the September 1 meeting of the Conservation Commission.

In the meantime, Attorney General Mark Meiners has written to the Attorney General for the State of South Dakota to ask whether he may represent the state's interest in any legal action against Union Carbide for violation of state law. He has also asked the Attorney General for the State of South Dakota to take appropriate action to prevent the illegal operation of the Union Carbide Corporation.
Gulf U. Mine = No Water
San Mateo appeal

The people of San Mateo, NM had issued an emergency appeal to officials of New Mexico and Gulf U. Mines. Their request was based on the contamination of their local water supply due to mining activities by Gulf U. Mines. The town, established a little over two years ago, is expected to be the driest underground, and largest uranium mine in the

In late June, the water of San Mateo residents went bad, "a situation which already existed before the mine opened," said one representative of the group. Water is currently being "iced over" by the National Guard for agricultural use.

A domestic dispute has been brewing among the people. Governor, Lieutenant governor, representatives of the State Environmental Improvement Division and Gulf U. representatives, is "what we are working on," said one of the representatives.

For information contact the San Mateo Legal Defense Fund: PO Box 89, Grants, NM 88026. Phone: 505-267-1256.

WATER...A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL

Just over 100 years ago, land in the Southwest was the site of orchards, gardens and wandering sheep herds. It's always been arid in the region, but even more so with the drought and low rainfall. Average annual rainfall averages only seven inches a year, some water is contained in rivers, and most with some amount of water. At the first American sight of the area, the federal government called it the "Great American Desert." They looked for surface water, namely rivers and lakes, and the Southwest was the desert.

The people of the Southwest, first the indigenous, and later those who worked on extensive irrigation systems to water their crops, alternating planting and sheep grazing land to protect the earth from erosion. In this way there was food on all the tables, and enough water for everyone.

DEVELOPMENT COMES

A big step in developing the Southwest was the railroad. Railroads were granted vast extensions of western land by the federal government to encourage development. Railroads served the purpose of bringing people into an area, and bringing goods with them. In the Southwest, the Santa Fe railroad brought people and with coal - the energy resource of the decade.

The railroad also contributed to the economy. A million tons produced in the state of New Mexico. A steady decline in production continued, and by 1950, production was less than 100,000 tons. The railroad also contributed to the energy resource of the decade.

A million tons produced in the state of New Mexico. A steady decline in production continued, and by 1950, production was less than 100,000 tons. The railroad also contributed to the energy resource of the decade.
Experts from the National Academy of Sciences report, "Rehabilitation of Western Coal Lands", 1974.

"The report [defines] "Rehabilitation" as: "Restoring the land to a form in conformity with a prior land use plan, including a stable vegetative state that does not contribute substantially in environmental deterioration and is consistent with surrounding aesthetic values."

The NAS states, "The potential for rehabilitating land in areas with less than ten inches of rainfall annually is "nearly impossible", for... the ecological processes of reorganization of the earthy material are extremely slow under such adverse conditions. The rehabilitation of the drier sites may occur on a time scale that is unacceptable to society but these lands may take decades, or even centuries, for natural succession to reach stable conditions."

The National Academy of Sciences concludes that "It is quite clear that such uses for surface mining of coal amounts to affecting such values (like nutrients for economic and social needs) need the designation "national sacrifice areas" where reclamation will not even be attempted."

The NAS study concerned coal mining in the Northern Great Plains and the Southeast, where asimilant is contained in and adjacent to coal formations, consequently the impact of coal and uranium mining would be significant and synergistic.

With assistance from David Wells, in his Senior Thesis at the University of California-Santa Cruz, March 3, 1975.

THE EXPANDING AMERICAN DESERT

(Upon the Wasting of Water)

Coal reserves in the southwest area are located in the Morrison formation, also the location of the aquifers, or underground water tables. The coal deposits are stripped, mined, using surface mining techniques called "cleared mining". Coal is usually removed, and the land is then covered with soil or other material. In this process, the aquifer is "devastated", however, having been removed in this fashion, is contaminated with coal and other substances, and the remaining water is used in a slurry pipeline. The slurry pipeline from Peabody Coal's Black Mesa mine connects with the Hutchinson Pipeline, ending at the coal plant. As the coal is mined, the water is treated and used for dust suppression and electricity generation. The process, like the Four Corners area, is based on coal mining.

Water produced from the Four-Corners area has been decreasing both in quantity and quality. In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency listed ground water at Laguna Fowell, a site in the Alvord Desert, as a uranium mining operation. The Bureau of Land Management found widespread contamination at uranium mining operations. The Bureau of Land Management, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Atomic Energy Commission report widespread contamination at uranium mining operations. The Bureau of Land Management, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Atomic Energy Commission report widespread contamination at uranium mining operations.

Many communities are feeling dry. The Albuquerque Journal, (July 11, 1975) reports: Phillips Petroleum, Conoco, Texas Valley, United Nuclear, Homestake and Mobil Oil are as well as other companies, have projects located within a 15-mile radius of Crawford, New Mexico. The small rural town is concerned as its water supply is in the geologic formation that has created the uranium problem. The water is used to water crops, but the water is not available, due to high concentrations of dissolved minerals. (Albuquerque Journal, July 11, 1975). All mining operations in the Ambrosia Lake area are for uranium.

LET THEM EAT YELLOWCAKE

"The thing about this energy development, said one New Mexico resident, "is that once the ball starts rolling, it's hard to stop the game." Oil extraction, coal and uranium mining, power plants, high voltage transmission lines, nuclear waste disposal, and all a part of the Four Corners and New Mexico's economy. Much more energy development is predicted for the future, of which requires water. New Mexico State Engineer Steve Reynolds states that agriculture presently uses nine times more water than industry in the state, but studies estimate that energy companies can afford to pay six times what a farmer once paid. According to the Quay County Sun (Tucumcari, NM, July 13, 1975), "the Public Service Company has applied for 40,000 acres of water. If the state has enough water supply, the company can use it to meet its requirements."

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

As industrialization increases, more arable land is turned into desert. As reported in the New York Times (August 30, 1977), "It is estimated that fertile land is being deposed and destroyed at a rate of 14 million acres a year. Already over 45 percent of the planet's land surface is desert or semi-desert. Unless desertification can be slowed, some scientists say, fully one third of today's arable land will be lost during the next 22 years, while the world's need for food will nearly double.

As the National Academy of Sciences reports, "The mining process, the layover is not separated from the bottom soil, and the latter, which contains salts, creates a condition in which the soil to be reclaimed is highly saline and is doubtless that it can be used at all."

To the People of South Dakota Energy development, or exploitation (depending on how you look at it) is a reality in many parts of North America - the Southwestern United States, the mineral belt runs to Saskatchewan, Canada. We believe that the people should know what is happening to other peoples living in resource-rich areas. There is no race, state or national boundary, in resource exploration. From experience and history we should learn.
Low-level radiation -
It's Everywhere

The concept of low-level radiation is hard to grasp -
first, because you can't see it, and second, because it's everywhere. Radiation is a naturally occurring phenomenon in which everything is exposed. The problem with radiation is that people begin spending additional radiation into the earth, water, and air when they begin nuclear weapons development - and that addition has increased even more through the use of radiation in x-rays and energy production.

People absorb radiation through all parts of their body and in all sections of the nuclear fuel cycle. Uranium is not an active, dangerous element until it is exposed to air and begins to break down into a series of radioactive substances. We are exposed to radiation from uranium and other mine exploration. All into our water, blows into the air, and is spread on the earth when samples are brought down underground. Blasting and digging done for uranium mining raise clouds of radioactive dust that can be inhaled by miners or blown out of mine ventilators, spreading radon gas over the countrywide. The radon breaks down quickly into other radioactive particles known as "radon daughters," which can also contaminate the air, water, and earth.

After these materials are exposed to radiation, they are absorbed in the body and move through the various parts of the body. The amount of time it takes these substances to pass through the system is dependent on the particular substances and the part of the body. A person who absorbs a large amount of radiation will have a shorter life expectancy than someone who was exposed to radiation in smaller amounts.

The different kinds of radioactive substances that occur in nuclear fuel are subject to different parts of the body. The amount of time it takes them to travel through the body is determined by the amount of radiation they receive and the part of the body they are absorbed in.
THE INFLUENCE OF UNION CARBIDE... BACKBONE OF THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

The Crucial Link: Enrichment

The company runs two out of three uranium enrichment facilities currently operating in the world (the third plant may soon be in operation in South Africa). These plants take yellowcake (uranium ore that has been concentrated) and turn it into fuel grade. This is a necessary step in the nuclear fuel cycle. All three plants operating in the United States are under contract from the Department of Energy - two are contracted to Union Carbide, and the third is contracted to Goodyear Firestone, Inc. Union Carbide Enrichment Services Co., which was created to specialize in the enrichment of uranium into fuel grade, is a major participant in the enrichment industry.

In 1972, the company received a contract with the Department of Energy to build and operate a new enrichment plant in Utah. The plant was designed to produce 6,000 kilograms of UF6 (uranium hexafluoride) per day. It was completed in 1975 and began operating in 1976.

Today, Union Carbide owns two uranium mines and one chrome mine in Arkansas. The company's corium (a mixture of uranium and thorium) is used in the production of nuclear power.

Incorporated in New York in 1922, a precedent was established for Union Carbide's growth plan, with the acquisition of stocks in four other corporations and their subsidiaries. The company was a leading manufacturer of sulfuric acid, with its subsidiaries, which later became known as Union Carbide, producing 15% of the world's sulfuric acid by the 1940s. The company has been a major force in the chemical industry for over 90 years and has been involved in a wide range of products.

The Influence of Union Carbide...
A NATIONAL GATHERING
OF THE PEOPLE

The walk as it proceeded along Hwy 73 towards Piedmont.

Leonard Riffas, cartoonist for the BHA

The kitchen which fed 3000 hungry mouths during the Gathering Weekend.

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One of many banners displayed during the walk.
Excitement filled the air July 6 as thousands of people gathered in the Black Hills to protest uranium mining and vociferous about the future.

A "Save the Hills Symposium" on July 6 drew over 7,000 people to hear speakers such as Dr. Judith Johnston and Dr. Rosalie Bertell, exposed on the extreme dangers of a radioactive environment and the need to continue and increase pressure on local, state, and national government, as well as private and public citizens.

Political sponsors, such as John Trudell and Bill Means, boasted out the American Government and corporate state. These men, as well as many others, voiced that not only white people are entitled to a future – rather they are protectors of the corporate system.

Third generation South Dakota rancher Marvin Kammerer spoke of the aesthetic value of the Black Hills and the spiritual significance to Indian People. Kammerer compared the mineral development of the Black Hills to "taking the guts out of Jerusalem."

Musicians Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, Jesse Colin Young, Danny O'Keefe and Floyd Westerman participated in the symposium to express their opposition to the centralized energy production and the oppression of human beings, especially native people of this continent. The 4,000 people who walked 15 miles in blistering hot weather on July 7 made one statement loud and clear — There shall be no uranium mining in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The people who participated in the National Gathering of the People - both local folks and people from dawn to states and several foreign countries - are now focusing on organizing for survival. Many of those individuals gathered in workshop on July 8 to begin planning for a "Gathering for Survival" in 1986. Commitments were made at the workshop to begin working on every aspect of the coming event, from an ecologically designed village and alternatives in health, education, communication, etc. to forums for traditional governments, treaty councils, and a Review Commission on the Energy Developing Corporations.

The 1986 Gathering is designed as an integrated approach towards survival without dependency on the corporations which seek to dismantle and control the lives of all people. The Gathering will be coordinated with other 1986 events, such as the march on Washington, to insure an orderly and continual focus on the threats posed by the energy corporations.

Organizations and individuals interested in sponsoring or working on the Survival Gathering are encouraged to contact the Black Hills Alliance, who will host the 1986 event. Direct all correspondence to "Survival", Black Hills Alliance, P.O. Box 2668, Rapid City, SD 57709, or call 605-343-9127.
Do we - or will we - have any rights?

It is easy to limit our knowledge and action to local conditions - there is plenty going on in all of our "haves." Illustration currently pending in the United States Congress, which could affect everyone's local life. Actions of local governments, now even in Congress, if passed, would certainly Constitutionally guarantee insurance for the rest.

The crime of solicitation is a crime of urging others to commit a crime, even if no specific act is taken by the others toward the execution of that crime.

Let us further assume that the demonstration does not take place. Under these circumstances, a person who gave a friend a ride in the demonstration in his/her car, but left right away, could be prosecuted under the above-mentioned aiding and abetting provisions of S. 182. If it could be shown that the person had had a conversation with him or her friend about the demonstration and was aware that it might obstruct the site. The person driving would have a stronger defense if it was said he didn't know the commission of the obstruction, as is required by current law.

The demonstrators then crimes could be prosecuted for a number of new crimes. In addition to obstruction of a government function. For example, evidence of any contact with a military official sufficient to leave the area and did not do so, they could be charged with the new crime of violating a public safety order.

Finally, to carry the hypothetical situation one step further, if a journalist covering the demonstration for the new of唇uce, he/she could be prosecuted for the new crime of hindering law enforcement of ke or she later refused to cooperate with the police by giving them the information gained. The journalist would be accused of concealing the identity of a demonstrator leader.

In such instance, the crime is called "new." The crimes are built on existing law, but the legislation would be expanded to allow for these crimes if S. 182 was passed.

Conversations with the Governor...

"The Department of Environmental Protection still exists in S.D.," stated Governor Janklow. "I just divided it up, wildlife, division, and Air Quality is in the Health Department, and Water Quality and Environmental Protection is in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. No one was fired, only the management board for the DEP was abolished, so fact it was actually expanded!"

Governor was exaggerated earlier this year after the Governor made these changes. It was felt the DEP would be left with little power to protect the Black Hills region from household uranium development, considering it was now combined with the same department responsible for promoting the development of our natural resources.

The Governor has stated numerous times since the reorganization that the DEP will be a strong force in monitoring these activities.

"The changes were made specifically for that reason. I don't want to lose the DEP. The Governor's vision of development will be more closely watched through this new organization. Not only will it be monitored by the DEP, but departments of Agriculture, Public Safety, Health and the State Planning Bureau will also play important roles in enforcement of rules and regulations to protect the environment and the people."

The Government's "confused" with the reorganization is hopeful for the people of S.D. concerned with uranium development. Channels of communication through public hearings, written comments, and other means of access to the decision-making process are necessary to protect the environment and the people of the Black Hills.

Janelle Walker

S. 114: Introduced by Serea D. DeCosta (Artie), Thermopolis (S.D. C.) and S. Hayakawa (Calif.) which was reintroduced on May 1, 1960. Passed by the Senate 95 to 1. This bill is in House Judiciary Committee, and one of the bills which would put aspects of S. 182 in effect even if it legislation fails. S. 198 would substantially relax it standard of probable cause to "reasonable suspicion.

S. 216: Carter's Energy Bill. Currently in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, at which time the House, Senate, and Appropriations Committees have jurisdiction. A vote in the Senate of May be held in late October. It is a bill which would allow the Department of Defense to purchase some Armed Forces personnel to protect itself.

What YOU CAN DO:

If there were no organization fighting the passage of the bills in your area, further information can be obtained from National Committee Against Reproductive Legislation, 2501 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 940, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067. (213-482-2030). Place calls to legislators or find out the status of a bill can be made to 202-2121-2121. Letter writing campaigns, mailing, and paid advertisements can influence the legislative process, but bills can be written at Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Representatives can be written to at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Particularly sore points should be made to influential legislators who have no one of the committees that will make decisions on bills and to reach legislators from your state.

Linda C. Jan

Land rights at Chant

Several hundred people gathered in Chama, Coats for the National Land Rights Conference, July 19-20. T. N. Freeman, sponsored by the Land Rights Council, was attended by Chama, Native American's, a group of the southwest who are working toward protecting the land.

The Land Rights Council was formed to protect the land. The people were guaranteed by treaty a the government in the Indentures and Chama people have not been able to use the privileges in the/South region.

The land had been known for grazing, hunting, fishing and as a source of water. In 1606, a wealthy businessman, Jack latt purchased the last remaining 77,000 acres of this land and since then the people have not been allowed to use the area. Today, new leaseholders, armed guards, a prevent the people of San Los Valley from enter, what is legally their land.

During the conference and the five mile protest walk sent the participants discussed the friction between the Chama and Indian peoples. Much of this friction I have been caused over water rights, something desperate to keep alive, and most are not able to use, but what is being bought and used by the mining and industry companies.

The people also discussed environmental and the destruction of the soil. To the north of Chama, the people there are in the Black Hills Alliance which will protect the land from mining and destruction, and make plans prevent further destruction. The Black Hills Alliance will fight the mining and preserving the region.

This conference provided evidence of the sincretic people movement to retain control of their lives and land upon which their lives depend.

Mark Freddickson

Photo by Tom B.
Kerr McGee moves into Lawrence County...Howdy, Neighbor!

The Spearfish Chapter of the Black Hills Alliance has been working together since the early part of May 1979. The group of about 25 people has been busy in the area, which is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Spearfish Chapter is a local chapter of the Black Hills Alliance, which is a national organization that works to protect the environment and the quality of life in the Black Hills area.

The Spearfish Chapter has been active in a number of initiatives, including the establishment of a chapter in Spearfish, South Dakota. The chapter has also been involved in the development of a newsletter and a website, which provide information on local events and issues. The chapter has also been active in the development of a new chapter in Rapid City, South Dakota.

In addition to these activities, the Spearfish Chapter has been involved in a number of other initiatives, including the development of a new chapter in Rapid City, South Dakota. The chapter has also been involved in the development of a new chapter in Rapid City, South Dakota.

URANIUM IN THE SOUTHERN HILLS

The Hersom Company has been mining uranium in the Southern Hills area for several decades. The company has mining claims in several locations in the area, including the town of Duck Creek. The company has been mining uranium in the area for several decades, and has been the subject of controversy in the past.

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Over the years, the company has faced a number of challenges, including environmental concerns and legal challenges. The company has been involved in a number of lawsuits, including a lawsuit filed by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1998, which sought to force the company to clean up the site. The company has also faced challenges from local residents, who have expressed concerns about the potential health risks associated with uranium mining.

In addition to these challenges, the company has faced a number of legal challenges. The company has been involved in a number of lawsuits, including a lawsuit filed by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1998, which sought to force the company to clean up the site. The company has also faced challenges from local residents, who have expressed concerns about the potential health risks associated with uranium mining.

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In a couple of years, it may be hard for a South Dakota rancher to get a loan for his or her ranch. Why? People in government and industry now propose innovations in large-scale, centralized energy systems. Armond Levin, a Federal advisory panel, and most of the major energy experts would consume three-fourths of all private investment capital in the United States. "Jobs and Energy," 1973. This money could be used in ranches, communities, and alternative energy development - but it is being budgeted for what is known as "Capital-intensive" development. The nuclear fuel cycle is a good example of capital-intensive development, because each stage of the cycle demands the investment of large sums of money, and the more you invest, the more you have to spend on the next stage. At the "front end" of the nuclear fuel cycle - uranium exploration, mining, and milling - the costs begin to build up. According to the Society of Mining Engineers (SME), 1965, exploration activities in 1971 consumed some $32 million. By the mid-1980s, exploration activities will consume some $150 million. Machinery, parts, and labor are all expensive. For example, the Mining Operations Research Project in New Mexico cost the company $12 million. In 1969, $8 million was spent in a single year on the operation of uranium mines and mills, and another big chunk, $80 million in 1977, up 5 percent over 1976. In the early 1980s, the single-year total will be additional $160 million, or 50 percent. Machinery, parts, and labor are all expensive. For example, the Mining Operations Research Project in New Mexico cost the company $12 million. In 1969, $8 million was spent in a single year on the operation of uranium mines and mills, and another big chunk, $80 million in 1977, up 5 percent over 1976. In the early 1980s, the single-year total will be additional $160 million, or 50 percent.

What is important to point out is that the companies are investing substantial money in planning for a nuclear energy operation. Today, the companies are investing substantial money in planning for a nuclear energy operation. This money is being invested in the development of new technologies, in research and development, and in the training of new workers. This money is being invested in the development of new technologies, in research and development, and in the training of new workers. It is estimated that in 1971, nuclear firms invested some $32 million. This amount is expected to increase to $150 million by the mid-1980s. The companies are also investing in the development of new technologies, in research and development, and in the training of new workers. It is estimated that in 1971, nuclear firms invested some $32 million. This amount is expected to increase to $150 million by the mid-1980s. The companies are also investing in the development of new technologies, in research and development, and in the training of new workers. It is estimated that in 1971, nuclear firms invested some $32 million. This amount is expected to increase to $150 million by the mid-1980s. The companies are also investing in the development of new technologies, in research and development, and in the training of new workers. It is estimated that in 1971, nuclear firms invested some $32 million. This amount is expected to increase to $150 million by the mid-1980s. The companies are also investing in the development of new technologies, in research and development, and in the training of new workers.
McGovern sets energy meeting

Senator George McGovern has recently scheduled the Western South Dakota Energy Development Symposium for August 29, 1979. The Symposium will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Gillette Inn, Rapid City.

According to Senator McGovern, there will be a panel focusing on the development of oil and gas in South Dakota. "There will be a separate panel to examine uranium and lard crops and milling issues. The panels will be composed of state and federal officials, representatives from various energy industries as well as concerned local citizens and environmental groups."

The purpose of the Symposium is "to inform citizens of ways to balance South Dakota's need for economic development and the need to preserve our water resources and the environment."

Alternative energy users sought

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is seeking information from alternative energy users and advocates of South Dakota. The Commission would like to contact persons using domestic solar hot water systems, solar space heating, wind generating units, geothermal energy, or nearly any other type of alternative technology.

The PUC is compiling information on solar users to use as a resource in future educational and political efforts which would stimulate interest in solar applications. The Commission is interested in direct, first-hand experiences from solar users in South Dakota.

Coalition launches campaign

The Black Hills Energy Coalition (BHSEC), has launched a campaign to collect 15,000 signatures by PDA, in order to put an initiative on the 1980 ballot that would give South Dakotans the right to vote on declared nuclear waste directly related to uranium development in the state. If enough signatures are collected, and the citizens of S.D. vote in it; it would enable the voting public to decide on issues such as uranium mining and mill sitings, health and safety, and water regulations, and whether or not South Dakotans would allow nuclear power plant or waste dumps in the state.

The initiative was drawn by Reed Richards, Deadwood Mayor, and John Sanderson, BHSEC Chairman. Over 100 people were in attendance at the kick-off meeting held in Rapid City in July. Information was related regarding impending nuclear developments and rules for circulating the petition. All signatures must be legible, circulators of the petition were encouraged to make a type-written explanation of signatures and addresses so that they won't be disregarded. Petition circulators and signers must be registered voters of S.D., only the persons to whom the petition was assigned to it to circulate it. Individuals are to write their street address instead of a post office box as the persons checking voter registration can find them through respective wards within the county of the state.

Sanderson is confident about getting enough signatures. The BHSEC is placing more strategic newsgroups in both the West and East River areas in order to stimulate interest and encourage more people to circulate the petition.

South Dakota is one of the first and few states which allow a citizens' initiative to become a law. It is an excellent channel for South Dakotans to have a voice on their state's nuclear and state regulations. Federal and Indian lands may not be affected by this petition, as many Indian reservations, and the Lakota lands are not under federal government's control.

Gov. Bill Janklow recognizes the petition as a very effective measure to bring the general public into a decision-making body that will play a very important role in the decision made on nuclear development. Individuals interested in circulating, signing, or setting up petition meetings should contact the BHSEC, (605) 348-4026.

It's not just our future, but our children's also...

Natl' nuclear waste dumps

On September 26th, 28th and 29th, 1979, a national gathering of people will take place physically and spiritually to stand up against the first permanent national nuclear waste dump in the U.S. The gathering will take place at Florence (Loving), New Mexico. 12 mines from the WIPP Nuclear Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Project.

The release is being coordinated by the Florence Land Rights Coordinating Committee, a Chicago based organization, working with Native American and other organizations in the area.

Department of Energy projects to bring over 2,700 acres (underground) of nuclear waste over a 25 year period into the area. According to the DOE, over 350,000 people are concerned about the toxicity of waste-some of which last up to 250,000 years, and the potash reserves located in the area. The area of southeastern New Mexico contains significant potash reserves for fertilizer.

People are asked to support resistance to becoming a nuclear waste disposal site, the waste transportation will effect us all.

For more information contact: Florence Land Rights Coordinating Committee, PO Box 326, Florence Land Rights, Council, PO Box 7002, Albuquerque, NM 87124.
Craven Canyon

Getting the shaft

Steeper rocky ridges and near vertical cliffs dominate Craven Canyon, where Union Carbide is excavating a 2,000-foot uranium shaft. Numerous small, spring-fed pools can be found along the streambed of the intermittent creek. It was here on the fringes of the Black Hills where indigenous peoples sought shelter from the frigid winters of the Great Plains; hillside, petroglyphs, cliff writings, and artificats are found throughout the area.

Craven Canyon is now under jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, to whom Enrico Carbide submitted an operating plan earlier in the year for its exploration shaft. Of three possible options - 1) approval of the operating plan, 2) approval of the plan with modifications, and 3) requirement and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement - the Forest Service chose to approve the operating plan pending specific modifications.

The Forest Service indicated in its Environmental Assessment Report (E.A.R.) that "there will be no significant effects upon the quality of the human environment," and therefore no Environmental Statement would be needed. In fact, according to the E.A.R., the requirement of an Environmental Statement was not even considered.

The exploration is being undertaken to determine if the mineral deposit warrants further development. Union Carbide has already conducted extensive core drilling exploration and is now driving the adit for three primary reasons: (1) to locate a fresh source of potential testing; (2) to determine the exact location of the ore body; and (3) to determine the best mining method. The adit, which will be 600 feet below the surface, may also be used for additional core ore sampling near 30,000 cubic yards of breakage material is to be removed from the shaft, the Forest Service determined that surface impacts would be minimal. The primary concern of the Forest Service's sub-surface activity, rather than that of the mining and milling impacts and other surface resources from a proposed activity on National Forest land.

Of the 16,000 cubic yards of material removed from the shaft, 2,000 cubic yards of the ore will be transported by covered truck to Union Carbide facility at Gun Hill, Wyoming - a distance of nearly 200 miles - where the ore will be baked.

Approximately 5000 cubic yards of minerite is to be stockpiled in an abandoned uranium pit within a short distance of the adit site. Thereafter, ore will be removed in 3-4 years for processing into yellowcake. It was stated in the environmental evaluation of the E.A.R. that there is a potential hazard of polluting groundwater with leachate from the low-grade ore. Although radiation levels from the Forest Service Experiment Station in Rapid City, recommended that the ore be covered and stored for a maximum of 12 months while radon emissions, the Forest Service suggested that the ore be covered and stored with a dust inhibitor or covered with 15 inches of top-soil.

Only 1,900 feet to go...

The remainder of the material removed from the uranium shaft will be radioactive spoil material, which is to be stockpiled on the 5 acre project site, and covered with 1 foot of soil.

Although the uranium shaft is classified as an exploration, concerned citizens criticized the operation, claiming that it is actually a mining operation. Since several thousand cubic yards of ore is to be stockpiled specifically for future processing, these critics consider the "exploration adit" label a disguise for a mining operation.

The adit is located in the Custer National Forest, a low producing aquifer, but Union Carbide anticipates encountering less than 5 gallons of water per minute. Any excess water will be pumped to a tank and used for dust control.

However, according to the Environmental Assessment Report, an analysis of nearby wells indicates that any groundwater encountered in the adit could be in excess of the allowable radionuclide count for surface water in South Dakota. In event that significant quantities of radionuclide contaminated groundwater is encountered, Union Carbide plans to impound the water in evaporation ponds. The Operating Plan, however, contains no provisions for construction of such a facility.

Up to 25,000 gallons of water may be required daily to control dust and pollution created by as many as 600 vehicles using the road daily. Although the company has stated that no specific sources of water at this time, they plan to purchase municipal water from Elkridge if necessary.

The relative solitude of Craven Canyon is perhaps the primary reason why it is the most important wildlife area on National Forest land south of Pass Creek. The presence of water and variety of vegetation make the canyon significant habitat for: male deer, wild turkey, bobcat, and a minimum of 27 non-game birds species such as golden eagle, prairie falcon, hawks, and many others.

Along with protection of wildlife species and air quality standards, a specific requirement of the Forest Service, E.A.R. is to maintain public access to Forest Service land in Craven Canyon. The average road through the private land which has never been acquired for public access. Union Carbide, in agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, has paid for the purchase of land. The Forest Service has been asked to purchase the remaining state of, if these modifications are approved, the state of Montana. The state of California may own a small amount of private land, which the state of Montana may own, and the land will be purchased. The Forest Service suggests that since the road has been open to the public for many years, it can be argued that this road is a public one of the road. Although the Forest Service also recommends that the road be acquired for public access, they have no legal authority to interfere in the agreement between Union Carbide and the landowner. In the meantime, it appears that the Forest Service cannot easily gain public access to the Craven Canyon.

Canyon was shut down by the Conservation Commission on August 2 for violating state law.

Colleen Raggs

TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

Consider carefully as the issue of URANIUM mining or nuclear waste disposal is decided in your state, you and your neighbors, and be aware of the great promises made by your representatives.

Many of you local folks seem ready to go on the dangerous barge: large sums of cash for mining and nuclear plants and sales of uranium to support the nuclear fuel industry. But remember that South Dakota is the only state that requires you to "you must buy the rest of the package: a 35 year boom-bust economy (25 years by corpora

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Only 1,900 feet to go...

...until Union Carbide reaches the end of the 2,000-foot uranium exploration adit. A major part of the bottom of the shaft is Craven Canyon.