Dangers of “in-situ leach” (ISL) mining

ISL method combines the mining and milling of uranium into a single step by leaching uranium off the surface of uranium-bearing rock. To recover uranium from low-grade deposits sulfuric acid is injected underground to dissolve the uranium ore and the pregnant leachate is extracted by pumping. Uranium mining has a dreadful history of environmental and social harms. ISL method is no different:

- Use of large amounts of chemicals used in the process pose potential risks for spills and leak
- ISL mining leaches not only uranium, but other unwanted minerals and contaminants (heavy metals).
- Uranium mining leads to the presence of radiation due to the uranium decay sequence. The principle radioactive elements released during ISL mining are uranium, thorium, radium, radon, and their respective progeny.
- ISL mining is potential risk for contamination to groundwater and drinking water sources. Restoration of the water to pre-mining condition is IMPOSSIBLE.

Health and lives of nomads endangered

Drinking water in wells has become unsafe--milk turns sour when the water is used to make tea. This is devastating news for desert residents in a water scarce Mongolia.

Many nomads have experienced adverse health effects such as skin rashes (diagnosed by a local doctor as “genetic scabies”), hair loss, persistent cough, diabetes, and decline in general health.

The coincidence in time and place, and the evidence from multiple research studies that examined the effects of uranium mining and radiation, in particular, radon and its progeny, on animals and humans, point at the link between uranium mining and the disaster occurring in Ulaanbadrakh, Mongolia.

TO DATE international media failed to report on the crimes committed by Areva in Mongolia.

For more information please visit

http://golomt.org
https://www.facebook.com/nuclearfreemongolia?ref=hl

STOP AREVA! URGE Mongolian Government and NEA to STOP Uranium mining in Dornogobi!

The Mongolian Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is a state agency responsible for overseeing the uranium mining, exploration, and radiation safety.

April 15-17, 2014, the director of the NEA, Mr. N. Tegshbayar, and several officers are visiting TAMU Nuclear Power Institute in College Station, TX.

PLEASE spread the word about tragedy of Mongolian herders and their desperate plea for help!

Break the media silence on Areva’s crimes in Mongolia!

Photo: Local herder who lived near Areva’s mining camp lost over 20 calves in December
Common birth defects in animals: blindness, congenital hair loss, missing entire limbs or portions of it (e.g., lambs with 2 legs), missing eyes and jaws, limb duplication (6 legs), 2 heads…

Photo: Stillbirths and miscarriages, Spring 2014

Most congenitally deformed animals die in a matter of days. Mature animals suffer from eye infections and the opacity of eye lens and cornea.

Photo: Baby goat w/missing hooves on the back legs

When slaughtered for food, the internal organs (e.g., liver, kidney, lungs) of animals show signs of inflammation, change in the structure, and frequently have blisters, and white or dark spots.

Photo: Lungs of a dead goat, Spring 2014

Herder families that resided in the area for generations point that they had never experienced such severe and frequent birth deformities and multiple sudden deaths.

Photo: Dead lamb born without rectal opening

STOP nuclear genocide in Mongolia!

Mongolia, a Central Asian country with a population of 3 million, has rich mineral resources such as gold, copper, coal and URANIUM. French nuclear giant Areva has been exploring Mongolian uranium resources since 1990s. In December 2010 Areva launched experimental uranium extraction via “in-situ leaching” (ISL) method in Ulaanbadrakh soum (county) in Dornogobi province.

Between December 2010 and May 2011, approximately 2.7 tonnes of uranium yellow cake was produced by Kojegobi, a subsidiary of Areva in Mongolia. Areva and the government of Mongolia have endorsed sulfuric acid ISL as the safest and most technologically advanced method for uranium extraction.

However, rural nomads have been experiencing multiple adverse effects such as soaring rates of stillbirths, birth defects and sudden deaths in the livestock for the last three years. Effects on human health have also been reported.

Please help us RAISE public awareness about uranium mining DISASTER in Dornogobi, Mongolia!