

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
CHAIRMAN

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK  
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY  
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BETTY MCCOLLUM, MINNESOTA  
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE  
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND  
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
JOHN P. SARBANES, MARYLAND  
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

[www.oversight.house.gov](http://www.oversight.house.gov)

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT  
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA  
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS  
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA  
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA  
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA  
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA  
BILL SALI, IDAHO  
JIM JORDAN, OHIO

January 16, 2008

Dr. Charles L. Miller  
Director  
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 8 A23  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Miller:

Thank you again for meeting with us on December 5, 2007, to discuss your draft action plan to address the health and environmental impacts of uranium contamination in the Navajo Nation. We believe that implementation of the federal agency action plans will begin to address these impacts, and we encourage you to proceed as rapidly as possible, consistent with your consultation responsibilities to the Navajo Nation. These action plans, however, are only a beginning.

The draft action plans do not clearly delineate a course of action for fully resolving the problem. Given the extent of the contamination that is already known, it is obvious that the contamination cannot and will not be cleaned up in the 3- to 9-month timeframes covered by the draft plans. We need a 5-year plan from each agency that sets out specific cleanup objectives, specific timeframes for achieving those objectives, and the new authorities and funding, if any, necessary to achieve those objectives. These plans will provide the Congress, the Navajo Nation, and the public with concrete benchmarks against which to measure the progress of the federal agencies in cleaning up the contamination.

We therefore request that your agency prepare a 5-year action plan for addressing uranium contamination in the Navajo Nation. We are making a similar request of each of the other responsible agencies. In developing your plan, please work with the other agencies to ensure that the federal response is coordinated and effective. The 5-year action plan should specify its cleanup objectives and include specific timeframes and cost estimates for achieving those objectives.

Among the specific objectives that one or more of the 5-year action plans should address are:

Dr. Charles L. Miller  
January 16, 2008  
Page 2

- Assessment of structures and water sources that are likely to be contaminated;
- Cleanup of all structures found to be contaminated above safe levels;
- Provision of alternate water supplies for residents consuming contaminated water;
- Tiered assessment of abandoned mines, with more detailed assessments of those most likely to pose environmental or health problems;
- Cleanup of the Northeast Churchrock mine site and additional high-priority abandoned mine sites;
- Cleanup of the Tuba City Highway 160 site;
- Cleanup of the Tuba City dump;
- Remediation of groundwater contamination at the three mill sites; and
- Conduct of one or more case control studies of health risks faced by individuals residing near mill sites or abandoned mine sites.

We request that you provide the Committee with your agency's draft 5-year action plan by February 19, 2008. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jeff Baran or Andy Schneider of the Committee staff at (202) 225-4407.

Thank you for your continuing cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman



Tom Davis  
Ranking Minority Member

cc: Mr. Jim Nussle  
Director, Office of Management and Budget