



Arizona Indigenous People's Caucus
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

September 18, 2019

Misael Cabrera, P.E., Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Director Cabrera:

It has come to the attention of the members of the Arizona Indigenous People's Caucus that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has proposed the renewal of the Aquifer Protection Permit for the Non-Stormwater Impoundment for Canyon Mine. Given the potential impact of such an action to the health and safety of the nearby Havasupai Tribe, we are deeply concerned with both the proposed action and the lack of opportunity for input from affected communities.

As you know, uranium mining practices have historically had disastrous consequences for Arizona's indigenous communities. With recent reports of extensive flooding at Canyon Mine, we share the concerns voiced by the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Grand Canyon Trust and Wild Arizona about perpetuating this harm through groundwater contamination. It would be irresponsible and unjust for ADEQ to allow Canyon Mine to continue to pollute the very water source which the nearby Havasupai Tribe has relied upon since time immemorial.

Considering these hazards to the health and safety of Arizona communities and the environment, the Arizona Indigenous People's Caucus respectfully urges ADEQ to comply with its statutory duty to protect the environment by issuing a license to close and remediate, rather than continue operating Canyon Mine. Further, we urge ADEQ to hold public hearings on any future action relating to the operation of Canyon Mine.

Respectfully,

Sally A. Gonzales, Chairwoman

Armando Teller, Vice Chairman

Jamescita Peshlakai, Member

Jennifer Jermaine, Member

Victoria Steele, Member

Myron Tsosie, Member