

RESOLUTION TITLE: Resolution to Support the Inclusion of New Mexico Downwinders and post-1971 Uranium Workers in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)

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Whereas, New Mexico uranium miners were adversely affected by overexposure to radiation and New Mexico is Downwind of the 928 atomic bomb tests that took place in Nevada from 1945 to 1998 and there were thousands of families, men, women, and children that lived within a 150-mile radius and as close as 12 miles to the Trinity Site in 1945 who were overexposed to radiation (known as Downwinders); and

Whereas, the United States government passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (“RECA”) in 1990 to pay compassionate restitution and provide medical care to people that were exposed to radiation from nuclear tests; and

Whereas, the United States government has been compensating the Downwinders of the Nevada test site but the Downwinders in New Mexico have never been included, although they were the first to be unknowing and unwitting test subjects exposed to radiation through the Trinity Site test; and

Whereas, the radiation caused cancerous diseases such as thyroid cancer, leukemia, multiple myeloma, throat and mouth cancer, pancreatic cancer, testicular cancer, breast cancer, lymphomas and others; and

Whereas, the failure to include New Mexico in RECA has caused a catastrophic environment.

Therefore, be it resolved: That the Democratic Party of New Mexico fully supports the efforts to amend RECA to include New Mexico Downwinders and post-1971 uranium workers by:

1. Continuing to raise awareness and understanding of the harms caused by radiation poisoning of people and the environment; and
2. Urging, through our advocacy at all levels of the DPNM, that all members of Congress vote for the passage of federal legislation in HB 5338 and SB 2798 at the earliest date possible.

CITATIONS

Kathleen M. Tucker and Robert Alvarez, *The Most Significant Hazard of the Entire Manhattan Project*, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, July 15, 2019;
<https://thebulletin.org/2019/07/trinity-the-most-significant-hazard-of-the-entire-manhattan-project/>

Lesley M.M. Blume, *Lawmakers Move Urgently to Recognize Survivors of the Atomic Bomb Test*, *National Geographic*, Sept. 21, 2021;
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/lawmakers-move-urgently-to-recognize-survivors-of-the-first-atomic-bomb-test>

Stephen N. Borunda, *A Body Downwind of the Atomic Attack at Trinity: Mediations of Atomic Coloniality in Nuevo Mexico*, *Energy Justice in Global Perspective*, Vol. 4, Issue 1, 2022, August 2, 2022;
<https://mediaenviron.org/article/36561-a-body-downwind-of-the-atomic-attack-at-trinity-mediations-of-atomic-coloniality-in-nuevo-mexico>

Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, *Economic Impact Statement and Did You Know?*
<https://www.trinitydownwinders.com> 42 U.S.C. §2210; 28 C.F.R. Part 79;

U.S. Dept. of Justice, *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act*;
<https://www.justice.gov/civil/common/reca#:~:text=The%20Radiation%20Exposure%20Compensation%20Act,testing%20and%20uranium%20industry%20employment>
[US DOJ, RECA website].

The latter explains that the President signed into law the RECA Extension Act of 2022 on June 7, 2022 that extends the termination of RECA until 2024.

Id., e.g., U.S. DOJ, RECA website, at “RECA Covered Areas, Downwinder Areas”; see also Tucker and Alvarez, *The Most Significant Hazard*, Blume, *Lawmakers Move Urgently ...*, and Borunda, *A Body Downwind of the Atomic Attack at Trinity ...*, throughout.

Tucker and Alvarez, *The Most Significant Hazard*, at Figures 1 and 2 and at Notes 23 through 26;

Blume, *Lawmakers Move Urgently ...*, Sections, “A Very Serious Hazard” and “Something Felt Terribly Awry”;

Borunda, *A Body Downwind of the Atomic Attack at Trinity ...*, pp. 8-10 and 19-20; .

Co-Supporters

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